

## Re: Falcon 1 to Pad

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quasarstrider@yahoo.com.br (quasarstrider) wrote in message news:<14a48ff9.0410140942.5ab90709@posting.google.com>...

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> *There is something I have wondered for a while... Glancing at old photos of Beal rocket engine tests, the nozzle looks eerily familiar to the one SpaceX uses in their first-stage engine Merlin. I know the first stage in Falcon 1 has a pump engine while Beal's rockets were exclusively pressure-fed (although the second stage in Falcon 1 is also pressure-fed) and the fuels aren't the same, but the feeling's still there.*

> *Then add the fact that SpaceX uses Beal's former testing facility in Texas to test Merlin. So, err, are some of the same people involved, or am I just seeing things that really aren't there?*

I don't know if Musk got some of Beal's former employees. I have noticed that Merlin shared a lot of features with the NASA Fastrac engine that was developed during the late '90s at MSFC (and had nothing to do with Beal).

See "<http://www1.msfc.nasa.gov/NEWSROOM/background/facts/fastrac.html>"

I haven't read about any NASA/SpaceX license agreements, but I do recall that at least one subcontractor (Barber-Nichols as I recall) built a turbopump used in both engines.

SpaceX seems to be borrowing good ideas from the past. Inspiration for the Falcon I launch pad equipment, for example, came from photos of the early Thor mobile equipment.

– Ed Kyle