

United Launch Alliance workers on strike

By Eric Fleischauer Metro Editor May 6, 2018 Updated 5 min ago 0



No picketers were at the United Launch Alliance plant on Red Hat Road in Decatur on Sunday evening. [ERIC FLEISCHAUER/DECATUR DAILY]

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Unionized workers at United Launch Alliance today voted to go on strike.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers' negotiation committee last week recommended the workers reject ULA's three-year contract and authorize a strike. The negotiation committee had also recommended a strike in 2015 and 2012, but members declined to strike then.

The vote approving a strike and rejecting management's offer on the 2018-2021 contract was today.



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"We're disappointed that the IAM members rejected ULA's last, best and final offer and voted to strike," said Tory Bruno, ULA president and chief executive officer, in a statement. "We believe our proposed contract is very competitive with other companies. Importantly, ULA's final offer contributes to ULA's long term viability in an increasingly competitive launch business environment."

ULA's operations will remain open at all sites, according to the ULA statement, and ULA will implement its strike contingency plans.

The contract covers 300 hourly employees located in Decatur's 607-employee plant on Red Hat Road and another 300 at ULA's launch sites in Cape Canaveral, Florida, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

"The ULA Machinists have spoken loudly and with one voice," the union said in an online memo to workers. "The IAMAW is officially on strike."

ULA had a successful launch Saturday. Its next launch is scheduled for late July.





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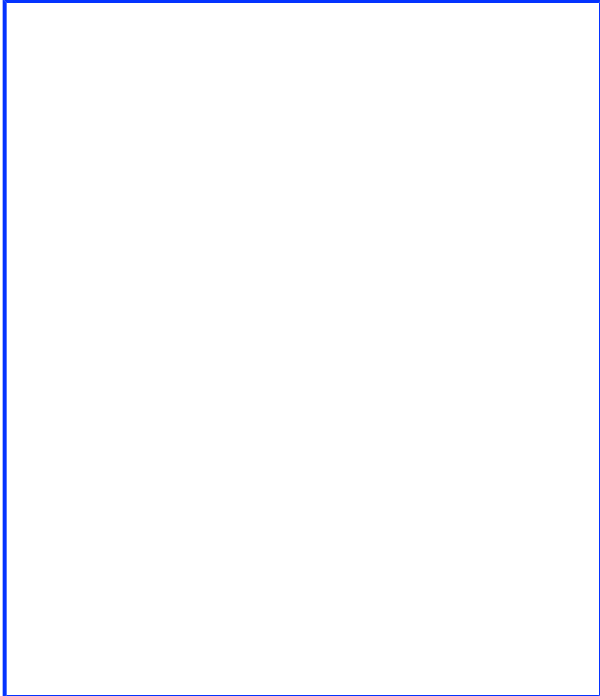
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