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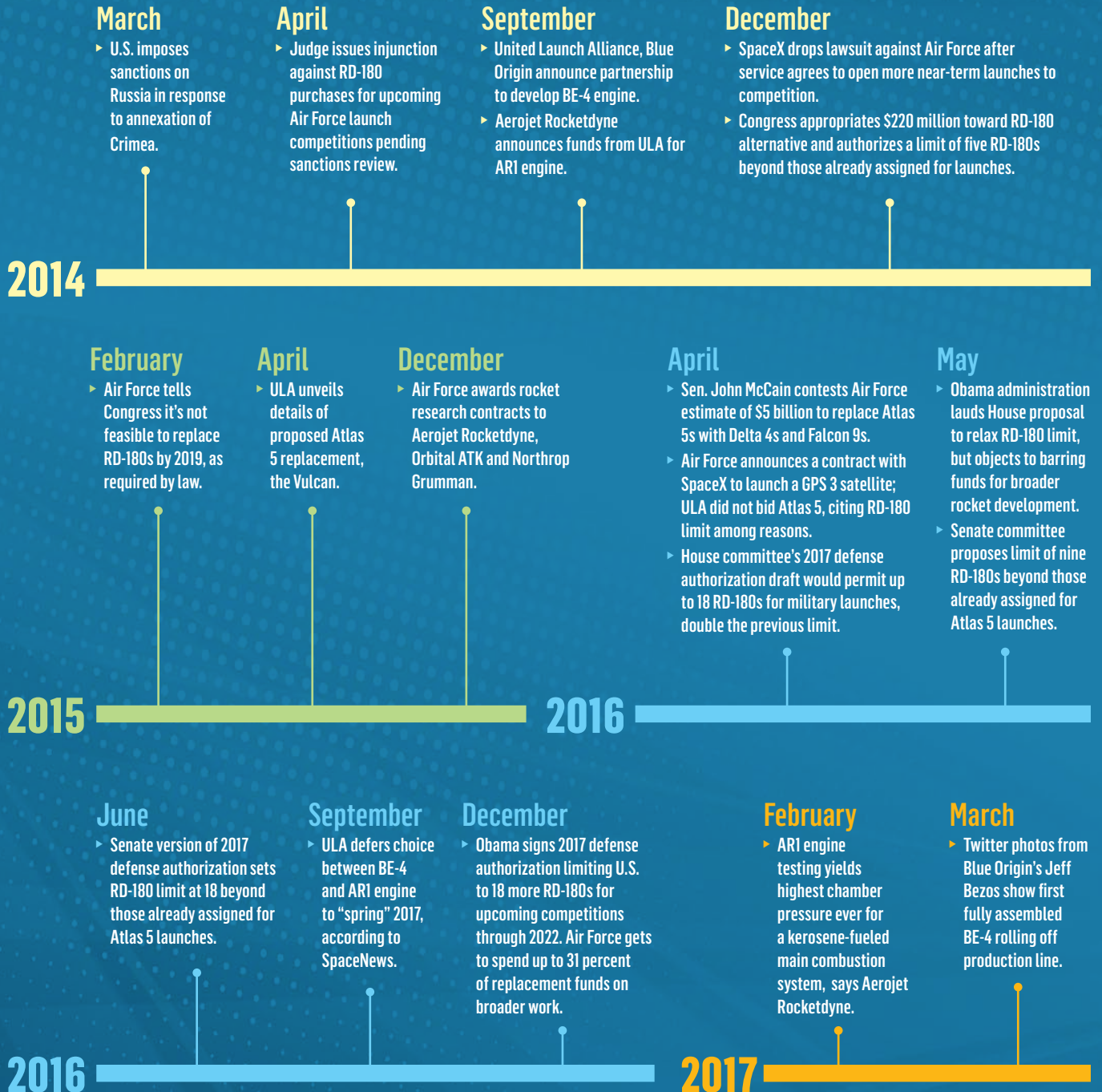
**For the U.S., a defensive shift away from monolithic satellites has proved harder than envisioned. PAGE 18**



Shaping the Future of Aerospace

# The U.S. struggles to free itself of Russian RD-180 engines

U.S. Atlas 5 rockets have proved amazingly reliable at launching national security satellites. For that reason, the Air Force remains reluctant to do anything rash about the fact that each Atlas 5 first stage is powered by a Russian RD-180 engine. Another camp, led by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., wants to move away from RD-180s as quickly as possible. This timeline shows the complex chain of actions by the Air Force, White House, Congress and industry.



Research by Warren Ferster