NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine: Well, thank you so much.

It’s an honor to be able to talk to the whole team there.

I want to start by thanking everybody who’s worked on this for such a long time.

I know this isn’t something that you put together on a Saturday morning.

This has been years of work by a whole host of people, for a very long time, including JPL, and of course the launch crew at Vandenberg.

I want to give a special thanks to ULA and congratulate them on 128 total successful launches in a row, 78 specifically for the Atlas V. I want to thank our international partners, CNES and DLR, for their hard work.

This is a big day.

We’re going back to Mars; we did it from the West Coast, which is a first ever; we’re going to look deep inside the interior of Mars and we’re going to create a 3-D image.
of what’s going on inside of Mars; and of course, the launch of our CubeSats into deep space.

This is an extraordinary mission with a whole host of firsts.

It’s important for our country.

It’s also important for the world, and it really establishes American leadership in a lot of ways.

I just wanted to make sure everybody knew how grateful we are here at Headquarters – and especially me, since this is my first launch as the NASA administrator – that everything went so well.

And congratulations to everybody involved.

If it’s OK, I’d also like to introduce the team there to Thomas Zurbuchen, whom I know many of you know.

He’s the associate administrator of the
NASA Science Mission Directorate here at Headquarters.

And I’ll let him address you as well.

Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator, Science Mission Directorate: Thanks so much,

I’m just really excited, just like you.

We’re enjoying a great morning, crossing fingers and living through all the animations,

of course, and all the explanations that we got from the team, both on camera and in the

room.

I just wanted to thank the whole team – this is a team effort, like you just said – but

also I wanted to tell you how much we’re looking forward to doing the science, and

doing all this harvesting of everything we’ve been dreaming about in the last few years.

Sometimes putting these things together.

Space missions are hard – that’s why we do it.
Not because they’re easy.

And I just look forward to what we’re going to learn from this amazing mission once we arrive on the other side of this journey.

Thanks, Jim.

Bridenstine: That is awesome.

Well thank you Thomas.

And Tim, I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to address everybody there.

And, again, congratulations on a very successful launch.

NASA Launch Manager Tim Dunn: Thank you so much, sir, for taking time to speak to the team.

It means a lot to us.

If you were watching the video, you probably saw the level of excitement out here.

We are thrilled to be part of the first-ever
launch from the West Coast going interplanetary.

51
00:02:57,739 --> 00:03:02,340
Thank you and Mr. Zurbuchen for taking time
to speak to us this morning.

52
00:03:02,340 --> 00:03:03,340
Bridenstine: Awesome.

53
00:03:03,340 --> 00:03:04,340
Congratulations.

54
00:03:04,340 --> 00:03:04,346
You guys have a great day.