in space movies robots are always nearby to help out when things get dangerous

for our heroes they hold off bad guys to allow an escape act as a reliable copilot and sometimes just carry data

tapes around the universe NASA's own new Robonaut is not quite as advanced as that but it's hope you will add a helping hand for astronauts living at the International Space Station meet Robonaut 2 or just are to an anthropomorphic robot destined to head to the International Space Station with a crew of shuttle discovery during the
sts-133 mission I've been working on the

Robonaut project since about 2002 when I

became full full time employee and it

was always this sort of distant goal

that we're going to have a humanoid

robot up in space and now we get to see

it happen r2 is not quite the completely

independent machine shown to movie

audiences in the last several decades

but is the most advanced humanoid robot

ever taken into space although the robot

is definitely experimental it's

developer to have grand hopes for it as

do the astronauts who would work with it
our ultimate goal is to send a robot EBA
be able to set up work sites to the
astronauts and take care of mundane
boring and dull tasks that way the crew
doesn't have to go through all the
trouble to get in their spacesuits and
take the risk of going outside before it
gets to go outside the station though
there will be plenty of tests and lots
of work inside the station to confirm
our two will work as intended we'll make
sure everything survived launch let's do
the basic checkouts make sure the
fingers work each of the joints and the
arms were cameras things like that

working inside the station r2 is programmed to be a useful member of the crew and one that doesn't have to sleep

eat food or drink water will move on to

ea task board has been developed with buttons and switches and valves that are indicative of what the crew uses on a daily basis we'd like to prove that the robot can interface with those items as well as the crew cannon that may not sound like much compared to the capabilities of fictional robots but such steps or a large jump for our developers producing a robot that
can work with the same tools and within
the same interfaces that a human works
with requires you to constrain the size
of the robot to a human sized putting
all the capability that we want in a
human package has been very challenging
the hands specifically getting all that
finger motion and packaging everything
in something that is this size of a form
is a very significant challenge there
also were safety considerations since
our two will be working in an enclosed
space with six other station residents
the most difficult part about getting
really not ready for spaceflight has been our desire to have a robot that's fully functional and very capable yet balancing that with the safety and rigors of spaceflight making it durable as well as safe for the crew General Motors join NASA in robonaut's development in order to improve its own manufacturing techniques and other aspects of automotive development there are a lot of technologies in this robot that will enable us to build safer cars with more advanced features and better options and building to be more reliable
for the people behind some of the most famous fictional humanoids C-3PO and R2D2 and Star Wars the emergence of a real-life ancestor raises other questions but then of course we get into the interesting concept of what do people want from a robot does it need to be humanoid does it need to be the same size sure to be smaller so it doesn't dominate you and threaten you should be bed height size so you can look after you as you're getting older should it have big eyes that you think it's a can relate to it I'd love to see robot
technology advanced like this and this

is great this is hunter we don't need a robot you could take me how about that

I'm probably as bright as him well I'm peg peanuts while the actors one deed

stay behind on earth Artoo's mission is slated to begin in late 2010 from NASA's

Kennedy Space Center I'm George Diller