We had 16 Phase II SBRs and 14 made the grade.

So-- My current responsibilities is as the program manager for the small business innovative research program.

So we're going to start off with air vehicles.

I am the, what they call a CTTL, or a center technology transition lead,

and what I did is I work with small businesses to develop proposals to help with research problems that NASA has.

>> Automated sequence that does a ramp and then returns--

>> My name's Mark Davis.
I am an aerospace engineer, and I work for NASA.

A lot of the things that NASA does actually does come from the small business community.

Good morning, everyone. The thing about a small company is they're more flexible. They have better ideas. They can react on those ideas faster than a bigger company or us, so we tap into that type of energy because a good idea's a good idea no matter where it comes from.

So we're willing to go out to the general public.
to help them develop a product that they--

that we could use at NASA to meet our research needs

and goals and also help them produce a product

that they could sell to the general public.

So that's a win-win situation.

The biggest thing that I have right now is X-57,

where a small business is actually leading the charge

to develop and test, working with NASA,

a hybrid electric aircraft, powered aircraft,

and once they complete that testing, then they're supposed to go, and change out the wing, and actually go with all the,

I guess there's like
six engines on each wing

00:01:54.156 --> 00:01:56.676
to fly this aircraft with all electric propulsion.

00:01:57.016 --> 00:01:57.966
No gas part.

00:01:57.965 --> 00:01:58.646
It's all electric.

00:01:59.215 --> 00:02:01.335
And the good thing about that is this green earth.

00:02:01.465 --> 00:02:03.945
You don't, you're not putting out any exhaust.

00:02:02.039 --> 00:02:04.725
It's all electric.

00:02:04.725 --> 00:02:05.596
It's all clean.

00:02:05.805 --> 00:02:07.695
And it's quieter and more efficient.

00:02:07.695 --> 00:02:10.365
This, we're hoping this will become the next-generation

00:02:10.665 --> 00:02:15.406
aircraft that may someday become the next commercial transport

00:02:15.406 --> 00:02:18.765
that you see, like a 737, that United Airlines

00:02:18.765 --> 00:02:21.506
or American Airlines is going to use to move you from point A
49 00:02:21,506 --> 00:02:26,265
to point B. My vision is as the vehicle comes, reenters Mars

50 00:02:26,496 --> 00:02:29,426
and the-- So one of the things that I do a lot with working

51 00:02:29,425 --> 00:02:30,965
with small companies is we need

52 00:02:30,966 --> 00:02:34,466
to do testing what their idea is to see if it's valid.

53 00:02:34,466 --> 00:02:37,866
So we have a model shop we call, it's the Dale Reed Model Shop,

54 00:02:37,915 --> 00:02:42,115
and we do a lot of working on work with small UAVs

55 00:02:42,336 --> 00:02:47,486
so that we could safely test ideas on the, at this low cost

56 00:02:48,346 --> 00:02:50,706
so that companies get an idea of whether or not they're on the right track before they make something bigger

57 00:02:50,705 --> 00:02:53,245
and we put it onto a large project.

58 00:02:53,246 --> 00:02:55,096
>> I have some other parts in here, though.

59 00:02:55,096 --> 00:02:56,956

60 00:02:57,376 --> 00:02:57,665
So some of the hobbies that I've actually pursued when I'm not here at work is I like to fly.

And I've actually got certified in various aircraft.

I also do drag racing.

That's actually one of my passions.

I actually went out, and bought a Corvette, and went drag racing, and that was actually a hoot.

My wife and I would go out to various races,

and our favorite ones were, are over at Las Vegas because they had the best tracks and the best facilities.

Unfortunately, I had to give that up when I had the two kids
and turned the Corvette into a minivan.

So, but I'm hoping to get back into that again.

The job that I've had is almost like a fairy tale.

I mean, you don't, not too many jobs give you the opportunity to work with various companies and various centers across the country.

I mean, I've worked with a lot of companies across this whole country and I've seen a lot of this country because of the job that I'm in, so it's really cool.

And it really is the fairy tale.

I mean, this is a career.

that I would never have been able to imagine.
00:04:08,515 --> 00:04:22,629
[ Music ]