



1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,100  
(Roar of rocket engines)  
Mission Control: 2...1...0...and liftoff!

2  
00:00:04,120 --> 00:00:08,440  
The final liftoff of Atlantis, on the shoulders of the Space Shuttle.

3  
00:00:08,460 --> 00:00:10,800  
America will continue the dream.

4  
00:00:10,820 --> 00:00:14,230  
Narrator: If you are a fan of the space program, Ames Research Center

5  
00:00:14,250 --> 00:00:18,240  
was the place to be in Silicon Valley on the morning of July 8th.

6  
00:00:18,260 --> 00:00:21,840  
Ames opened its doors to the public to share the excitement of the launch

7  
00:00:21,860 --> 00:00:25,200  
of the last shuttle mission, STS-135.

8  
00:00:25,220 --> 00:00:29,240  
As crowds watched the high definition video coverage, local NASA experts,

9  
00:00:29,260 --> 00:00:34,460  
including former NASA Deputy Administrator and Ames Center Director Hans Mark,

10  
00:00:34,480 --> 00:00:38,060  
gave behind-the-scenes commentary on the final preparations.

11  
00:00:38,080 --> 00:00:44,870  
Mission Control: Zero and liftoff...  
(Crowd cheering and clapping)

12  
00:00:44,890 --> 00:00:49,440  
Narrator: When the orbiter Atlantis lifted off the pad, emotions were close to the surface for

13

00:00:49,460 --> 00:00:51,680

many who watched the launch.

14

00:00:51,700 --> 00:00:55,130

Grant Bennett: I feel just so great that it actually went off without a hitch

15

00:00:55,150 --> 00:00:58,260

and that they're up there, speeding around the Earth right now.

16

00:00:58,280 --> 00:01:02,620

Dwayne Bhatia: It's kind of thrilling to see how far America has come since the moon

17

00:01:02,640 --> 00:01:07,620

landing and after the last mission...and...it's amazing. It's really fun.

18

00:01:07,640 --> 00:01:11,480

Don Richey: When the shuttle finally went off, the whole room exploded. It was fantastic.

19

00:01:11,500 --> 00:01:18,340

People love NASA, people love the Space Shuttle and they're excited to see what we do next.

20

00:01:18,360 --> 00:01:23,590

Mission Control: Now standing by for external tank separation...

21

00:01:23,610 --> 00:01:28,570

Narrator: It marked the end of an era for Ames, which not only helped develop the shuttle design,

22

00:01:28,590 --> 00:01:34,800

but trained astronauts and flew science experiments throughout the program's 30-year history.

23

00:01:34,820 --> 00:01:40,200

But even as Atlantis makes its final journey, Ames is already turning towards the future.

24

00:01:40,220 --> 00:01:44,980

In recent years, NASA's new spacecraft, the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle,

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:48,530

has been receiving the same cutting-edge support as the shuttle.