



1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,960

JPL Mission Control: Touchdown confirmed.

2

00:00:01,980 --> 00:00:03,270

We're safe on Mars.

3

00:00:03,290 --> 00:00:04,810

(Cheering)

4

00:00:04,830 --> 00:00:07,170

Narrator: With those words, NASA's Mars Science Laboratory

5

00:00:07,190 --> 00:00:10,640

landed successfully inside Gale Crater on the red planet,

6

00:00:10,660 --> 00:00:16,310

sending mission control into a jubilant celebration.

7

00:00:16,330 --> 00:00:18,180

The excitement of the moment was shared by nearly

8

00:00:18,200 --> 00:00:20,410

7,000 people, who were on hand at

9

00:00:20,430 --> 00:00:24,910

NASA Ames Research Center to watch the live TV broadcast.

10

00:00:24,930 --> 00:00:27,140

The touchdown was the moment of truth during

11

00:00:27,160 --> 00:00:29,720

an evening celebration that highlighted the NASA Ames

12

00:00:29,740 --> 00:00:33,220

contributions to the MSL mission.

13

00:00:33,240 --> 00:00:36,020

Some of these include: the Chemistry and Mineralogy

14

00:00:36,040 --> 00:00:39,870

or CheMin x-ray diffraction instrument on board Curiosity;

15

00:00:39,890 --> 00:00:42,070

the PICA heat shield - developed and tested

16

00:00:42,090 --> 00:00:44,810

using the Arc Jet facility at Ames;

17

00:00:44,830 --> 00:00:47,200

the supersonic parachute - tested in the world's

18

00:00:47,220 --> 00:00:49,160

largest wind tunnel;

19

00:00:49,180 --> 00:00:51,910

a group of sensors called the MSL Entry, Descent

20

00:00:51,930 --> 00:00:54,660

and Landing Instrument, or MEDLI, that was embedded

21

00:00:54,680 --> 00:00:56,620

into the PICA heat shield;

22

00:00:56,640 --> 00:00:59,860

and the Mars Science Interface, or MSLICE, software

23

00:00:59,880 --> 00:01:02,270

that will be used by the science team to plan

24

00:01:02,290 --> 00:01:04,600

and execute rover operations on Mars

25

00:01:04,620 --> 00:01:07,610

over the next two years.

26

00:01:07,630 --> 00:01:10,080

Before the sun went down and the NASA TV broadcast

27

00:01:10,100 --> 00:01:13,370

began, attendees were able to ask Ames scientists

28

00:01:13,390 --> 00:01:15,910

questions about the mission and see hands-on

29

00:01:15,930 --> 00:01:18,640

displays about their work.

30

00:01:18,660 --> 00:01:23,850

(Center Director Pete Worden welcoming attendees)

31

00:01:23,870 --> 00:01:26,290

The audience also heard presentations from NASA Ames

32

00:01:26,310 --> 00:01:29,500

Center Director Pete Worden as well as several researchers

33

00:01:29,520 --> 00:01:32,090

from Ames who talked about MSL and the role

34

00:01:32,110 --> 00:01:35,220

the Center played in supporting the mission.

35

00:01:35,240 --> 00:01:38,770

During the last hour before landing, the NASA TV broadcast

36

00:01:38,790 --> 00:01:42,110

from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory took center stage.

37

00:01:42,130 --> 00:01:45,540

Everyone watched as the tension built for the big event.

38

00:01:45,560 --> 00:01:47,690

When the good news from the Curiosity rover came

39

00:01:47,710 --> 00:01:52,100

back to Earth, the team at JPL cheered their success.

40

00:01:52,120 --> 00:01:55,480

And thousands of space exploration fans at NASA Ames

41

00:01:55,500 --> 00:01:58,970

shared their jubilation.

42

00:01:58,990 --> 00:02:02,240

While thrilled that the landing was a historic achievement,

43

00:02:02,260 --> 00:02:05,230

Ames scientists are now gearing up for the next phase

44

00:02:05,250 --> 00:02:08,730

of the mission...as Curiosity spends the next two years

45

00:02:08,750 --> 00:02:13,070

exploring on the Martian surface.