



1
00:00:02,840 --> 00:00:04,560
Launch...Launch...Launch

2
00:00:04,800 --> 00:00:07,180
In March NASA made aviation history

3
00:00:07,480 --> 00:00:10,800
with the first flight of a scramjet powered airplane

4
00:00:11,140 --> 00:00:12,600
at hypersonic speeds.

5
00:00:13,100 --> 00:00:15,960
For the next flight of the unpiloted X-43A

6
00:00:16,300 --> 00:00:18,820
NASA is upping the ante and the speed,

7
00:00:19,320 --> 00:00:21,780
to Mach 10 which is ten times

8
00:00:21,780 --> 00:00:22,540
the speed of sound

9
00:00:23,080 --> 00:00:25,700
or about seven thousand miles an hour.

10
00:00:26,660 --> 00:00:28,140
If this flight succeeds it will be the

11
00:00:28,149 --> 00:00:30,080
culmination of more than four decades

12
00:00:30,080 --> 00:00:32,780
of work by generations of researchers.

13
00:00:33,340 --> 00:00:35,140

All aimed at proving that a supersonic

14

00:00:35,140 --> 00:00:37,680
combustion ramjet or scramjet

15

00:00:38,080 --> 00:00:39,640
is a good candidate to propel

16

00:00:39,640 --> 00:00:41,180
future high-speed airplanes

17

00:00:41,180 --> 00:00:42,600
or space planes.

18

00:00:43,020 --> 00:00:45,200
[sound of rocket taking off]

19

00:00:45,560 --> 00:00:47,460
Currently, the only option for ultra-high speed

20

00:00:47,460 --> 00:00:49,760
flight in the atmosphere is rocket power.

21

00:00:50,620 --> 00:00:52,440
While rockets have served as powerful

22

00:00:52,440 --> 00:00:54,820
workhorses since the beginning of the Space Age,

23

00:00:55,280 --> 00:00:59,300
the X-43A scramjet concept promises even more.

24

00:00:59,700 --> 00:01:02,080
A scramjet powered vehicle can be significantly

25

00:01:02,080 --> 00:01:05,280
lighter by not carrying heavy oxygen tanks,

26

00:01:05,280 --> 00:01:06,600

as rockets must.

27

00:01:07,020 --> 00:01:09,200

Scramjets also offer more airplane-like