

A portrait of Marco Midon, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark jacket over a collared shirt. He is standing in front of a brick wall with a window. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the overall tone is professional.

MARCO MIDON
*Lead Ground Station
Systems Engineer*

1
00:00:00,020 --> 00:00:04,040

[music]

2
00:00:08,080 --> 00:00:12,100

(Click noise of opening cane) [Marco Midon] The thing that made a difference between me being, let's say like

3
00:00:12,120 --> 00:00:16,130

or a scientist is probably the idea that as a

4
00:00:16,150 --> 00:00:20,200

visually impaired person I have to solve problems all the time. My background

5
00:00:20,220 --> 00:00:24,270

is electrical engineering with an emphasis on

6
00:00:24,290 --> 00:00:28,290

radio frequency and that interest goes

7
00:00:28,310 --> 00:00:32,330

back to when, you know, I've been fascinated with radio ever since I was a little

8
00:00:32,350 --> 00:00:36,360

child and got the ham radio license at eleven. So, I've been doing

9
00:00:36,380 --> 00:00:38,420

similar things for this for a long time.

10
00:00:38,440 --> 00:00:42,440

I oversee the design and implementation

11
00:00:42,460 --> 00:00:46,460

of the ground stations for SDO and LRO,

12
00:00:46,480 --> 00:00:50,480

mostly in the area of RF radio frequencies. So that's

13
00:00:50,500 --> 00:00:54,480

the antennas, the receivers, the

14
00:00:54,500 --> 00:00:58,540
transmitters, all that's involved in that. My father,

15
00:00:58,560 --> 00:01:02,560
that really was the beginning with him, he told us we could do anything we want

16
00:01:02,580 --> 00:01:06,590
and to not settle for second best.

17
00:01:06,610 --> 00:01:10,630
Working for NASA has really been a fantastic experience.

18
00:01:10,650 --> 00:01:13,660
I've gotten to travel all over the world.

19
00:01:13,680 --> 00:01:17,700
I went to Greece last year to help out the Russians when they

20
00:01:17,730 --> 00:01:21,720
requested for us to do the Soyuz. I got to go to Antarctica

21
00:01:21,740 --> 00:01:24,790
to work on an antenna. So, it's been an adventure.

22
00:01:24,810 --> 00:01:28,840
I've gotten to do what I love to do and travel all over the

23
00:01:28,860 --> 00:01:30,890
world and have a lot of fun doing it.

24
00:01:30,910 --> 00:01:34,940
Mentoring, I've done some with the National Federation for the Blind,

25
00:01:34,960 --> 00:01:38,990
the Rocket On Program, the Maryland Business Round Table.

26

00:01:39,010 --> 00:01:43,020

I guess my advice would be to anyone out there that they can

27

00:01:43,040 --> 00:01:47,080

do what they want. They have to be persistent, you know look for help,

28

00:01:47,100 --> 00:01:51,140

you know look for people that care about your future.

29

00:01:51,160 --> 00:01:55,210

Work hard. Get a good education. That would be my advice and the

30

00:01:55,230 --> 00:01:59,270

opportunities are out there. Yet, there are obstacles,

31

00:01:59,290 --> 00:02:02,330

difficulties, but they can be overcome.