

A retro-futuristic digital landscape. The floor is a glowing blue grid that recedes into the distance. Several palm trees are scattered across the scene. In the background, there are wireframe mountains and a large, glowing yellow sun. The word "PHOTON" is written in large, metallic, 3D letters across the center. To the right of the text, there are several bright red, streaky lines. The sky is dark with vertical lines representing rain or digital data.

**PHOTON**

1  
00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:04,000

[music]

2  
00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:12,000

of ICESat-2. ICESat-2 launched September 15th

3  
00:00:12,000 --> 00:00:16,000

last year, and over the last several weeks, we've seen all kinds of cool

4  
00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:20,000

stuff on Photon Phriday. Such as melt ponds in Greenland. That's something

5  
00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:24,000

we didn't know we were going to be able to do so well, and it opens up an entirely new

6  
00:00:24,000 --> 00:00:28,000

part of science. We had a great pass over Crater Lake where we could see

7  
00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:32,000

the walls of the former volcano, as well as the lake down in the middle, and that was

8  
00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:36,000

awesome. We had a great pass over the holidays at Nantucket,

9  
00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:40,000

off the coast of Massachusetts where we could see Cape Cod Bay

10  
00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:44,000

and out to Nantucket Island. Jakobshavn Glacier in Greenland, one of the fastest

11  
00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:48,000

flowing glaciers in Greenland and a focus of study for NASA and others

12  
00:00:48,000 --> 00:00:52,000

for the last several decades.

[music starts] So now that we've got all of those

13

00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:56,000

super hard, challenging measurements out of the way, we're on the

14

00:00:56,000 --> 00:01:00,000

next most difficult measurement—warehouses. Today's

15

00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:04,000

Photon Phriday is a very special warehouse. This happens to be the facility

16

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:08,000

in Gilbert, Arizona, where Northrop Grumman has the cleanroom

17

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:12,000

where the ATLAS instrument was mated to the spacecraft

18

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:16,000

and became the ICESat-2 observatory. So in a lot of ways it's like

19

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:20,000

ICESat-2 found its home in the suburbs of Phoenix,

20

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:24,000

Arizona. Thanks to all of you for following us along on