



LEADERS IN LIDAR

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,334
This is a

2
00:00:01,334 --> 00:00:02,669
checkerboard of a story.

3
00:00:03,269 --> 00:00:04,804
We've got to do a better job

4
00:00:04,804 --> 00:00:06,306
of selling ourselves.

5
00:00:06,306 --> 00:00:07,073
We've got

6
00:00:07,073 --> 00:00:08,675
a lot more competition now.

7
00:00:08,675 --> 00:00:09,642
There was no one

8
00:00:09,642 --> 00:00:10,677
in their right mind

9
00:00:10,677 --> 00:00:11,745
that would bid

10
00:00:11,745 --> 00:00:12,812
a laser altimeter.

11
00:00:12,812 --> 00:00:14,414
We had to convince the management

12
00:00:14,414 --> 00:00:16,449
that this was not a crazy idea.

13
00:00:16,449 --> 00:00:17,283

How were we going

14

00:00:17,283 --> 00:00:18,651

to find the surface of Mars?

15

00:00:18,651 --> 00:00:19,819

How we're going to track it?

16

00:00:19,819 --> 00:00:22,055

We were defining the rules as we went.

17

00:00:22,522 --> 00:00:23,957

As they said in the letter to me,

18

00:00:23,957 --> 00:00:25,525

If you don't make it on time

19

00:00:25,525 --> 00:00:26,393

and in budget,

20

00:00:26,393 --> 00:00:28,094

we will fly a brick instead.

21

00:00:28,094 --> 00:00:29,796

We're not going to hold this mission up.

22

00:00:29,963 --> 00:00:32,699

Communications with the Mars Observer spacecraft

23

00:00:32,699 --> 00:00:33,500

were lost.

24

00:00:33,500 --> 00:00:34,667

It never crossed my mind

25

00:00:34,667 --> 00:00:36,202

that spacecraft would let us down.

26
00:00:36,202 --> 00:00:38,471
Can you get your team back together in time?

27
00:00:38,471 --> 00:00:40,306
We were only given three years

28
00:00:40,306 --> 00:00:41,174
to rebuild it.

29
00:00:41,674 --> 00:00:43,209
This is the first profile of a crater

30
00:00:43,209 --> 00:00:44,377
we've ever seen on a planet.

31
00:00:44,377 --> 00:00:45,512
We were in demand

32
00:00:45,512 --> 00:00:47,847
to provide a laser altimeter to

33
00:00:47,847 --> 00:00:48,648
another mission.

34
00:00:48,648 --> 00:00:50,417
What is this mystery we're seeing?

35
00:00:50,417 --> 00:00:52,218
We started in the worst possible orbit.

36
00:00:52,218 --> 00:00:53,686
All of the easy missions are done,

37
00:00:53,686 --> 00:00:54,454
as they say.

38
00:00:54,454 --> 00:00:55,989

I had sleepless nights

39

00:00:55,989 --> 00:00:57,257

thinking that I wasn't

40

00:00:57,257 --> 00:00:58,792

going to be able to make this work.

41

00:01:00,560 --> 00:01:01,561

And this came out of

42

00:01:01,561 --> 00:01:02,462

"it can't be done"

43

00:01:02,462 --> 00:01:03,430

in the mid eighties

44

00:01:03,430 --> 00:01:05,231

to a tool that we now accept

45

00:01:05,231 --> 00:01:06,332

as the standard.

46

00:01:06,332 --> 00:01:09,269

It wasn't a destination or a place

47

00:01:09,269 --> 00:01:10,570

that we were,

48

00:01:10,570 --> 00:01:12,005

as much as a place