



Operational Readiness Test

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00:00:12,000 --> 00:00:18,000

Today we did a test of the whole approach and landing all the activities from cruise stage separation through

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00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:30,000

the parachute deploy through the power decent all the way to landing. You would think it was actually

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00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:37,000

landing day, we have everybody in their places in front of the computers looking at what information they

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00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:51,000

would actually see. Essentially it's like a dress rehearsal of the whole mission. We're simulating what

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00:00:51,000 --> 00:01:02,000

the team will do and see as the vehicle lands on Mars. We don't actually use the spacecraft obviously; we

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:09,000

use the test bed as our spacecraft for these tests. Its running just like it was approaching Mars, so it's

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00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:14,000

sending us information, we can send all that data up here and it looks to us like the spacecraft even though

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00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:23,000

obviously it's sitting on the ground. We also have a simulated data for what the DSN would be getting, for

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00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:28,000

navigation data for example and when we combine all that together pretty intricately actually so it really

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00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:54,000

feels like were actually there and were actually getting ready to land on Mars. This one is what we call the

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:02:01,000

nominal ORT where everything just goes exactly the way its suppose to. The spacecraft behaves perfectly the

12

00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:09,000

navigation is very straight forward and so there's no surprises. Next time we'll have a group of Gremlins