



1  
00:00:02,201 --> 00:00:03,436  
[light mellow music]

2  
00:00:03,469 --> 00:00:06,606  
>> Announcer: NASA's Jet  
Propulsion Laboratory presents

3  
00:00:06,639 --> 00:00:08,007  
the von Karman Lecture.

4  
00:00:08,040 --> 00:00:11,077  
A series of talks by  
scientists and engineers

5  
00:00:11,110 --> 00:00:13,246  
who are exploring our planet,

6  
00:00:13,279 --> 00:00:16,883  
our solar system, and  
all that lies beyond.

7  
00:00:26,959 --> 00:00:28,428  
>> Good evening,  
ladies and gentlemen.

8  
00:00:28,461 --> 00:00:29,962  
How is everyone doing tonight?

9  
00:00:29,995 --> 00:00:32,899  
[attendees applauding]

10  
00:00:32,932 --> 00:00:35,935  
Well, as always, thank  
you very, very much

11  
00:00:35,968 --> 00:00:37,937  
for coming out to  
join us tonight.

12

00:00:37,970 --> 00:00:42,241

Tonight, as NASA celebrates  
its 60th anniversary this year,

13

00:00:42,274 --> 00:00:44,110

we will be discussing  
how robots have played

14

00:00:44,143 --> 00:00:46,913

an integral part in  
space exploration.

15

00:00:46,946 --> 00:00:50,083

From America's very first  
satellite, Explorer 1,

16

00:00:50,116 --> 00:00:53,052

to two tiny CubeSats currently  
on their way to Mars,

17

00:00:53,085 --> 00:00:55,688

all built right here at JPL.

18

00:00:55,721 --> 00:00:58,324

The first of two panels will  
focus on major milestones

19

00:00:58,357 --> 00:01:00,793

in robotic exploration.

20

00:01:00,826 --> 00:01:02,795

What it took to reach  
those accomplishments,

21

00:01:02,828 --> 00:01:05,031

how far we've come  
and how spacecraft

22

00:01:05,064 --> 00:01:07,166

have changed over the years.

23

00:01:07,199 --> 00:01:08,267

The second panel will focus

24

00:01:08,300 --> 00:01:10,002

on robotic spacecraft  
developments

25

00:01:10,035 --> 00:01:12,572

we might expect to see in  
the next couple decades

26

00:01:12,605 --> 00:01:14,640

and what different  
demands we will be placing

27

00:01:14,673 --> 00:01:18,044

on those spacecraft as we  
look to explore new worlds.

28

00:01:18,077 --> 00:01:19,178

So, ladies and gentlemen,

29

00:01:19,211 --> 00:01:20,680

to host our panel tonight,

30

00:01:20,713 --> 00:01:23,649

please help me welcome JPL  
Public Outreach specialist,

31

00:01:23,682 --> 00:01:25,518

Mr. Preston Dyches.

32

00:01:25,551 --> 00:01:28,788

[attendees applauding]

33

00:01:34,026 --> 00:01:35,361

>> Well, hello, everybody.

34

00:01:35,394 --> 00:01:37,330

Thank you for being here.

35

00:01:37,363 --> 00:01:39,765

We're here to  
celebrate a birthday.

36

00:01:39,798 --> 00:01:42,301

The National Aeronautics  
and Space Administration

37

00:01:42,334 --> 00:01:44,570

is turning 60 this year.

38

00:01:44,603 --> 00:01:48,174

NASA began operations  
on October 1st, 1958.

39

00:01:49,642 --> 00:01:53,079

Now, there are a lot of  
incredible accomplishments

40

00:01:53,112 --> 00:01:55,348

we could celebrate  
in NASA's history,

41

00:01:55,381 --> 00:01:58,651

but our program  
tonight is to celebrate

42

00:01:58,684 --> 00:02:00,753

the role of the robots.

43

00:02:00,786 --> 00:02:03,756

That is the robotic or  
automated spacecraft

44

00:02:03,789 --> 00:02:05,892

that we send on  
uncrewed missions,

45

00:02:05,925 --> 00:02:07,927  
that is without people on board,

46

00:02:07,960 --> 00:02:09,629  
to study our home planet

47

00:02:09,662 --> 00:02:12,598  
and to explore our  
solar system and beyond.

48

00:02:12,631 --> 00:02:16,936  
Now, automated spacecraft  
extend our senses.

49

00:02:16,969 --> 00:02:19,772  
Robots go where humans can't go

50

00:02:19,805 --> 00:02:23,409  
or can't go because it's  
too risky or can't go yet.

51

00:02:23,442 --> 00:02:25,912  
And robots don't  
have to come back,

52

00:02:25,945 --> 00:02:30,116  
although, occasionally,  
a few of them do.

53

00:02:30,149 --> 00:02:32,251  
In the first part of our  
show, we will hit a few

54

00:02:32,284 --> 00:02:34,554  
of the milestones in  
robotic exploration

55

00:02:34,587 --> 00:02:36,923

and reflect on  
how far we've come

56

00:02:36,956 --> 00:02:39,058

and join us for the  
second part as well

57

00:02:39,091 --> 00:02:40,660

where we'll take a look forward.

58

00:02:40,693 --> 00:02:42,161

So to get started,

59

00:02:42,194 --> 00:02:44,964

let's bring on a couple  
of engineers here

60

00:02:44,997 --> 00:02:47,300

who have had their  
hands in a slew

61

00:02:47,333 --> 00:02:49,268

of different robotic  
missions over the years.

62

00:02:49,301 --> 00:02:52,405

Please welcome Julie  
Webster and Rob Manning.

63

00:02:52,438 --> 00:02:55,642

[attendees applauding]

64

00:02:57,243 --> 00:02:58,044

Hey!

65

00:03:02,214 --> 00:03:03,015

>> Rob: All right.

66

00:03:03,048 --> 00:03:04,217

>> Welcome, guys.

67

00:03:04,250 --> 00:03:05,985

Well, so, let me  
introduce you here.

68

00:03:06,018 --> 00:03:10,056

Julie Webster began her  
career with NASA in 1987

69

00:03:10,089 --> 00:03:12,458

and has worked on  
missions to Mars,

70

00:03:12,491 --> 00:03:14,961

Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn.

71

00:03:14,994 --> 00:03:16,762

She was the spacecraft  
operations manager

72

00:03:16,795 --> 00:03:18,231

on the Cassini mission to Saturn

73

00:03:18,264 --> 00:03:21,067

and now serves as chief  
engineer on the Juno mission

74

00:03:21,100 --> 00:03:23,035

which is orbiting Jupiter.

75

00:03:23,068 --> 00:03:25,771

Rob Manning currently  
serves as chief engineer

76

00:03:25,804 --> 00:03:27,540

here at NASA JPL

77

00:03:27,573 --> 00:03:31,744

and he's worked on most JPL  
Mars missions since the 1990s.

78

00:03:31,777 --> 00:03:33,412

And he was a key  
member of the team

79

00:03:33,445 --> 00:03:35,748

that landed the  
first rover on Mars.

80

00:03:35,781 --> 00:03:37,016

So, thank you both  
for being here.

81

00:03:37,049 --> 00:03:38,251

>> It's a pleasure.  
>> Thank you so much.

82

00:03:38,284 --> 00:03:39,919

>> So can you, just  
to get us started,

83

00:03:39,952 --> 00:03:41,988

can you put into perspective

84

00:03:42,021 --> 00:03:46,425

what it's actually like to  
control a robotic spacecraft

85

00:03:46,458 --> 00:03:49,328

that's millions of miles away

86

00:03:49,361 --> 00:03:51,998

and you'll never see  
it or touch it again

87

00:03:52,031 --> 00:03:53,566

after it leaves the Earth

88

00:03:53,599 --> 00:03:55,134

and you're remotely  
operating this thing.

89

00:03:55,167 --> 00:03:58,571

What is the task of operating  
that thing actually like?

90

00:03:58,604 --> 00:03:59,538

>> Go ahead.

91

00:03:59,571 --> 00:04:00,573

>> Well, there's two things.

92

00:04:00,606 --> 00:04:02,041

The first thing you gotta do

93

00:04:02,074 --> 00:04:04,744

is you've gotta anticipate  
everything in advance.

94

00:04:04,777 --> 00:04:07,079

So you try to remember  
to catch all of the stuff

95

00:04:07,112 --> 00:04:08,448

so you can know.

96

00:04:09,648 --> 00:04:11,984

It's like a good lawyer,  
you never ask a question

97

00:04:12,017 --> 00:04:14,987

that you don't  
know the answer to.

98

00:04:15,020 --> 00:04:16,756

Until you get surprised.

99

00:04:16,789 --> 00:04:18,891

And the second thing is,

100

00:04:18,924 --> 00:04:20,993

and Rob and I talked about  
this before the show,

101

00:04:21,026 --> 00:04:22,862

we were talking about

102

00:04:22,895 --> 00:04:26,399

that it's like your  
grandmother's writing a letter.

103

00:04:26,432 --> 00:04:29,602

Everybody these days wants a  
text and if 30 seconds later,

104

00:04:29,635 --> 00:04:31,404

somebody has an  
answered your text,

105

00:04:33,472 --> 00:04:32,238

Where are you?

106

00:04:33,505 --> 00:04:36,743

And that works for the  
first few thousands

107

00:04:38,177 --> 00:04:40,980

or tens of thousands of  
miles away from the Earth

108

00:04:41,013 --> 00:04:44,684

but after that, you  
have to wait for it,

109

00:04:44,717 --> 00:04:48,187  
and by the time you gets to  
Mars, it's 15, 20 minutes,

110  
00:04:48,220 --> 00:04:52,024  
by the time you get to Jupiter,  
it's 45 minutes to get there

111  
00:04:52,057 --> 00:04:54,994  
and then 90 minutes  
roundtrip light time,

112  
00:04:55,027 --> 00:04:57,463  
and then it's three  
hours at Saturn

113  
00:04:57,496 --> 00:05:00,566  
so there's no instant  
communication.

114  
00:05:01,533 --> 00:05:03,102  
>> Grandma, I love it.

115  
00:05:03,135 --> 00:05:04,503  
>> Grandma.

116  
00:05:04,536 --> 00:05:05,738  
Might bite.

117  
00:05:05,771 --> 00:05:06,672  
>> My grandma did  
the same thing,

118  
00:05:06,705 --> 00:05:08,975  
the letters get fewer and fewer,

119  
00:05:10,109 --> 00:05:11,410  
spaced further  
and further apart.

120

00:05:11,443 --> 00:05:12,912

And so it is kind of strange,

121

00:05:12,945 --> 00:05:15,748

and actually, it is weird to  
see stuff that you've touched

122

00:05:15,781 --> 00:05:18,284

here on Earth and then gradually

123

00:05:18,317 --> 00:05:21,654

have it feel like it's getting  
further and further away,

124

00:05:21,687 --> 00:05:23,689

and the weirdest  
thing is to see stuff

125

00:05:23,722 --> 00:05:26,392

that your vehicle  
does so far away,

126

00:05:26,425 --> 00:05:30,262

it does what we ask it  
to, it's kind of strange.

127

00:05:30,295 --> 00:05:31,864

It feels like it's,

128

00:05:31,897 --> 00:05:34,934

it's a weird split between,

129

00:05:34,967 --> 00:05:36,569

I feel my brain is  
split between feeling

130

00:05:36,602 --> 00:05:39,905

we've created a robot  
that does our bidding

131

00:05:39,938 --> 00:05:43,309  
versus, as Preston said,  
it becomes an extension

132

00:05:43,342 --> 00:05:46,178  
of our bodies out  
there and our minds.

133

00:05:46,211 --> 00:05:48,481  
But these things  
are not, you know,

134

00:05:48,514 --> 00:05:50,383  
we design them ourselves

135

00:05:50,416 --> 00:05:53,753  
but it's remarkable how much  
they take a life of their own.

136

00:05:53,786 --> 00:05:55,688  
>> Well, they develop their  
own personalities, don't they?

137

00:05:55,721 --> 00:05:56,889  
>> They do.

138

00:05:56,922 --> 00:05:58,724  
>> But it's mostly the quirks.

139

00:05:58,757 --> 00:06:00,593  
It's the things that  
you don't anticipate,

140

00:06:00,626 --> 00:06:02,762  
that that's how they  
develop their personalities.

141

00:06:02,795 --> 00:06:07,066

It's like, you can build  
identical spacecraft

142

00:06:07,099 --> 00:06:09,201

and yet, once you  
send them out there,

143

00:06:09,234 --> 00:06:12,138

this one will have a  
wire that didn't go right

144

00:06:12,171 --> 00:06:14,607

or this one will have  
that that got hot.

145

00:06:14,640 --> 00:06:19,378

And so, their personalities  
are really kinda their quirks.

146

00:06:19,411 --> 00:06:20,813

>> Quirks.

147

00:06:20,846 --> 00:06:23,949

>> Yeah, somewhere between  
R2-D2 and HAL 9000.

148

00:06:23,982 --> 00:06:25,384

[laughing]

149

00:06:25,417 --> 00:06:28,821

And so, I'm sorry, Rob,  
I'm afraid I can't do that.

150

00:06:28,854 --> 00:06:29,789

That actually happened.

151

00:06:29,822 --> 00:06:31,357

We had to have a robot,

152

00:06:31,390 --> 00:06:34,393

Curiosity did to us once,  
it's not a very good day.

153

00:06:34,426 --> 00:06:37,296

>> Well, you guys could  
both speak to the task

154

00:06:37,329 --> 00:06:40,766

or the process, I guess, of  
planning each day's operations

155

00:06:40,799 --> 00:06:42,101

for a spacecraft, right?

156

00:06:42,134 --> 00:06:43,602

I mean, 'cause in some respects,

157

00:06:43,635 --> 00:06:45,738

it's not really a  
technological task, is it?

158

00:06:45,771 --> 00:06:46,572

It's a really human process.

159

00:06:46,605 --> 00:06:48,073

>> It's a human thing.

160

00:06:48,106 --> 00:06:50,376

And the further your  
spacecraft goes out,

161

00:06:50,409 --> 00:06:53,546

the longer you have to  
plan for it in advance

162

00:06:53,579 --> 00:06:57,450

and I never worked a tactical  
mission where you got the data

163

00:06:57,483 --> 00:06:59,351

and turned it around  
and work next day

164

00:06:59,384 --> 00:07:03,689

but like the sequences  
that we built on Cassini

165

00:07:03,722 --> 00:07:07,460

were designed years in  
advance were finalized

166

00:07:07,493 --> 00:07:10,529

and sent up for 10  
weeks at a time.

167

00:07:10,562 --> 00:07:13,566

So you had to think  
ahead and know

168

00:07:13,599 --> 00:07:15,801

where your spacecraft  
was going to be

169

00:07:15,834 --> 00:07:20,039

or supposed to be at every  
second along the way.

170

00:07:20,072 --> 00:07:21,273

>> So those pictures,

171

00:07:21,306 --> 00:07:24,510

the Cassini project  
to me has created

172

00:07:24,543 --> 00:07:27,613

some of the most spectacular  
space photography

173

00:07:27,646 --> 00:07:30,316  
and sometimes, I don't know  
how you figured this out

174  
00:07:30,349 --> 00:07:33,118  
in advance but he  
created these visualize

175  
00:07:33,151 --> 00:07:37,423  
where Deimos will be, or  
with respect to the rings.

176  
00:07:39,725 --> 00:07:40,893  
>> Julie: Wrong planet.

177  
00:07:40,926 --> 00:07:43,162  
>> Wrong planet,  
wrong planet, sorry.

178  
00:07:43,195 --> 00:07:44,797  
They all look alike to me.

179  
00:07:44,830 --> 00:07:46,732  
No, Titan's over there.

180  
00:07:47,866 --> 00:07:51,136  
You can can see things  
between its rings,

181  
00:07:51,169 --> 00:07:52,938  
you see the shepherd  
moons right there.

182  
00:07:52,971 --> 00:07:55,774  
But it all has to been  
worked out way in advance.

183  
00:07:55,807 --> 00:07:57,443  
>> Way in advance.

184  
00:07:57,476 --> 00:08:00,312  
And the uncertainty  
of the timing,

185  
00:08:00,345 --> 00:08:02,681  
you get better and then  
sometimes you find yourself

186  
00:08:02,714 --> 00:08:06,052  
a few seconds to,  
maybe even minutes off

187  
00:08:07,219 --> 00:08:10,155  
and you allow dead time  
so that you can move it

188  
00:08:10,188 --> 00:08:13,325  
at the last second as you get  
better and better knowledge.

189  
00:08:13,358 --> 00:08:15,261  
>> So, it's like clockwork.

190  
00:08:15,294 --> 00:08:16,495  
It's like a very precise time.

191  
00:08:16,528 --> 00:08:17,763  
>> It's a very--  
>> Time, exactly.

192  
00:08:17,796 --> 00:08:19,431  
>> It's like  
choreography, you know.

193  
00:08:19,464 --> 00:08:20,900  
>> Actually, the essence  
of a robot, right?

194  
00:08:20,933 --> 00:08:22,768

You tell it, here's a sequence  
of things I want you to do

195  
00:08:22,801 --> 00:08:24,136  
and it hopefully.

196  
00:08:24,169 --> 00:08:25,371  
>> Does it.  
>> Does it.

197  
00:08:25,404 --> 00:08:27,473  
>> What you don't wanna  
do is to do something

198  
00:08:27,506 --> 00:08:29,208  
you didn't ask it to do.

199  
00:08:29,241 --> 00:08:30,709  
>> Julie: Which is how they  
develop their personalities.

200  
00:08:30,742 --> 00:08:31,577  
>> Yeah.

201  
00:08:32,978 --> 00:08:36,649  
>> Let's take a look  
back now at some of the,

202  
00:08:37,816 --> 00:08:40,553  
and some of the greatest  
hits that are playing

203  
00:08:40,586 --> 00:08:42,255  
on some phones here.

204  
00:08:43,689 --> 00:08:46,125  
Let's take a look back at  
some of the early milestones

205

00:08:46,158 --> 00:08:48,561  
of robotic exploration.

206  
00:08:48,594 --> 00:08:52,531  
Starting in December 1962  
as the Mariner 2 spacecraft

207  
00:08:52,564 --> 00:08:55,968  
was approaching Venus  
for NASA's first flyby

208  
00:08:56,001 --> 00:08:57,636  
of another planet.

209  
00:08:57,669 --> 00:08:58,837  
Here's a video.

210  
00:08:58,870 --> 00:09:00,105  
>> Narrator: In  
December, Mariner 2

211  
00:09:00,138 --> 00:09:02,508  
was closing in fast on Venus

212  
00:09:02,541 --> 00:09:04,710  
but it was in a  
precarious state.

213  
00:09:04,743 --> 00:09:07,279  
Portions of the spacecraft  
were overheating,

214  
00:09:07,312 --> 00:09:09,148  
several critical  
telemetry sensors

215  
00:09:09,181 --> 00:09:11,450  
had stopped working altogether.

216

00:09:11,483 --> 00:09:13,819

It was taking all the  
energy the solar panels

217

00:09:13,852 --> 00:09:18,090

could produce to keep the  
spacecraft functioning.

218

00:09:18,123 --> 00:09:21,527

On December 14th, Mariner  
2 made its closest approach

219

00:09:21,560 --> 00:09:25,731

to Venus, flying by at a  
distance of 20,000 miles.

220

00:09:27,065 --> 00:09:30,135

In Pasadena, a steady  
stream of science data

221

00:09:30,168 --> 00:09:32,504

came pouring back  
as audible sounds

222

00:09:32,537 --> 00:09:34,774

throughout mission control.

223

00:09:38,844 --> 00:09:41,680

Scientists were elated,  
although most of the results

224

00:09:41,713 --> 00:09:45,884

were more confirmations  
than new discoveries.

225

00:09:45,917 --> 00:09:50,923

There was no onboard camera  
so there were no pictures.

226

00:09:52,090 --> 00:09:53,459

There was also no sign  
of a magnetic field

227

00:09:53,492 --> 00:09:56,528

or a radiation  
belt like Earth's.

228

00:09:56,561 --> 00:09:59,398

For a planet considered  
Earth's twin for its size

229

00:09:59,431 --> 00:10:02,368

and near proximity,  
Venus revealed itself

230

00:10:02,401 --> 00:10:06,538

to be a hellish world  
filled with carbon dioxide,

231

00:10:06,571 --> 00:10:11,410

and where surface temperatures  
are hot enough to melt lead.

232

00:10:11,443 --> 00:10:15,047

20 days after passing  
Venus, Mariner 2 transmitted

233

00:10:15,080 --> 00:10:18,985

half an hour of telemetry  
and then went silent.

234

00:10:20,986 --> 00:10:23,589

>> So Mariner 2 made it to Venus

235

00:10:25,223 --> 00:10:27,993

and it gave it NASA  
its first in space

236

00:10:28,026 --> 00:10:31,397

but it was dicey and the

spacecraft didn't last

237

00:10:31,430 --> 00:10:32,531  
long after.

238

00:10:32,565 --> 00:10:34,667  
So I wonder if you guys could  
talk about what it takes

239

00:10:34,700 --> 00:10:38,103  
to keep a spacecraft  
going for months or years,

240

00:10:38,136 --> 00:10:39,905  
for long enough to  
complete its mission

241

00:10:39,938 --> 00:10:42,007  
and what's changed over time

242

00:10:42,040 --> 00:10:44,810  
that's made spacecraft  
more reliable?

243

00:10:44,843 --> 00:10:48,213  
>> Well, yeah, a lot  
of it is understanding

244

00:10:48,246 --> 00:10:49,748  
the space environment,

245

00:10:49,781 --> 00:10:52,584  
having an idea how  
things work, that whole.

246

00:10:52,617 --> 00:10:55,621  
You heard the reference  
to the thermal

247

00:10:55,654 --> 00:10:58,057

that things were too  
hot, things were too cold

248

00:10:58,090 --> 00:11:01,126

and that's been the bane  
of a lot of spacecraft

249

00:11:01,159 --> 00:11:05,397

is the thermal environment,  
the radiation environment,

250

00:11:05,430 --> 00:11:09,435

the understanding space  
so as we've gotten better

251

00:11:09,468 --> 00:11:12,071

with understanding space  
and how hot it can be

252

00:11:12,104 --> 00:11:14,540

if you're facing the sun  
and how cold it can be

253

00:11:14,573 --> 00:11:15,741

if you're not,

254

00:11:16,675 --> 00:11:18,210

that's a lot of it.

255

00:11:18,243 --> 00:11:21,213

>> Right, I mean we  
you think about stuff

256

00:11:21,246 --> 00:11:24,183

that we, the humans  
make on this planet,

257

00:11:24,216 --> 00:11:26,885

it's mostly stuff for

around room temperature,

258

00:11:26,918 --> 00:11:30,622

maybe a little cold or a  
little warmer in an atmosphere.

259

00:11:30,655 --> 00:11:34,960

If you're facing a heat source,  
the heat will radiate away

260

00:11:34,993 --> 00:11:38,197

but also there's atmosphere  
cooling it down but in space,

261

00:11:38,230 --> 00:11:41,567

with no air, the sun  
just bakes one side

262

00:11:43,535 --> 00:11:45,337

thousands of degree temperatures

263

00:11:45,370 --> 00:11:47,606

if you don't have some  
way to get the heat off

264

00:11:47,639 --> 00:11:49,641

and then the back side,  
that looks at deep space.

265

00:11:49,674 --> 00:11:53,145

It's looking at the residual  
microwave background radiation

266

00:11:53,178 --> 00:11:56,548

from the Big Bang at little  
below three degrees Kelvin.

267

00:11:56,581 --> 00:11:58,283

Three degrees below  
absolute zero.

268

00:11:58,316 --> 00:11:59,852

So it's like a  
super weird place.

269

00:11:59,885 --> 00:12:02,788

I mean this is just, this  
is not how we live here

270

00:12:02,821 --> 00:12:06,425

in this planet and try  
taking your television,

271

00:12:06,458 --> 00:12:09,128

put in outer space,  
it just wouldn't last.

272

00:12:09,161 --> 00:12:11,463

And then not to mention,  
the other things

273

00:12:11,496 --> 00:12:14,399

that we've discovered  
after Mariner 2

274

00:12:14,432 --> 00:12:15,901

about the radiation effects.

275

00:12:15,934 --> 00:12:17,402

Oh, my goodness.

276

00:12:17,435 --> 00:12:19,438

>> The radiation effects and  
just tracking the spacecraft.

277

00:12:19,471 --> 00:12:22,941

Just trying to stay in  
communication with it

278

00:12:22,974 --> 00:12:23,942  
as you walk.

279  
00:12:23,975 --> 00:12:25,544  
You've ever been separated  
by walkie talkies

280  
00:12:25,577 --> 00:12:28,313  
and the further you got  
or you got behind a tree

281  
00:12:28,346 --> 00:12:31,150  
and all of a sudden,  
you're not texting

282  
00:12:31,183 --> 00:12:33,285  
or calling back and forth.

283  
00:12:33,318 --> 00:12:36,588  
So learning how to talk  
and to to capture it

284  
00:12:36,621 --> 00:12:39,258  
as the Doppler shifted  
the radio signal

285  
00:12:39,291 --> 00:12:41,527  
and things like that,  
all of that was new.

286  
00:12:41,560 --> 00:12:43,162  
>> Preston: So we've learned  
more as we've gone on.

287  
00:12:43,195 --> 00:12:44,630  
>> Rob: Yeah.

288  
00:12:44,663 --> 00:12:47,633  
>> And the people that  
work Earth missions today

289

00:12:47,666 --> 00:12:50,803

still don't understand how  
different deep space is.

290

00:12:50,836 --> 00:12:53,872

>> Yeah, and just figuring  
out where your spacecraft is

291

00:12:53,905 --> 00:12:55,141

in outer space.

292

00:12:57,075 --> 00:12:58,577

The science of,

293

00:12:58,610 --> 00:13:00,612

Cassini can actually look  
out its window and see--

294

00:13:00,645 --> 00:13:01,613

>> Preston: Could, past tense.

295

00:13:01,646 --> 00:13:02,815

>> Could, could, paste tense.

296

00:13:02,848 --> 00:13:03,849

>> Could, oh.

297

00:13:05,684 --> 00:13:06,552

I miss Cassini.

298

00:13:06,585 --> 00:13:07,386

>> Hard for me too.

299

00:13:07,419 --> 00:13:08,654

>> Yeah, I know.

300

00:13:08,687 --> 00:13:10,489

So it could look out its  
window and see the moons

301  
00:13:10,522 --> 00:13:12,591  
and kind of we can sort of  
figure out from the pictures

302  
00:13:12,624 --> 00:13:14,526  
but most of our spacecraft,  
if you look out,

303  
00:13:14,559 --> 00:13:15,994  
it just see a bunch  
of stars and the sun.

304  
00:13:16,027 --> 00:13:17,462  
You don't know where it is.

305  
00:13:17,495 --> 00:13:20,032  
And so we have to figure  
out where our spacecraft are

306  
00:13:20,065 --> 00:13:24,336  
from this planet by coming  
up with these wild tricks

307  
00:13:24,369 --> 00:13:28,073  
using radio signals  
to bounce a beam back,

308  
00:13:28,106 --> 00:13:29,508  
a little kinda boop.

309  
00:13:29,541 --> 00:13:31,343  
Send a boop and have  
a have that boop

310  
00:13:31,376 --> 00:13:34,046  
reflected off of the  
radio like a mirror,

311

00:13:34,079 --> 00:13:36,615  
bounce back and if you time it,

312

00:13:36,648 --> 00:13:37,950  
you can figure it out how far.

313

00:13:37,983 --> 00:13:41,286  
>> In inertial  
radiation, inertial gyros

314

00:13:41,319 --> 00:13:42,554  
and things like that,

315

00:13:42,587 --> 00:13:46,225  
you have to first learn  
what the programmer did,

316

00:13:47,692 --> 00:13:51,597  
did they put it in J 2000  
or 1958 terms or XYZ.

317

00:13:52,764 --> 00:13:53,966  
>> Preston: Programming  
language did they use.

318

00:13:53,999 --> 00:13:55,434  
>> What programming  
language did they use.

319

00:13:55,467 --> 00:13:57,069  
>> Early spacecraft  
had no computers.

320

00:13:57,102 --> 00:13:58,036  
>> Had no computers.

321

00:13:58,069 --> 00:13:59,838  
Well, they had analog computers.

322

00:13:59,871 --> 00:14:02,908

>> And barely at that, it was mostly closed in controllers.

323

00:14:02,941 --> 00:14:04,243

>> Closed in controllers.

324

00:14:04,276 --> 00:14:07,079

>> Kind of an exotic toaster ovens.

325

00:14:07,112 --> 00:14:08,881

[attendees laughing]

326

00:14:08,914 --> 00:14:10,682

>> But it was.

>> Not to knock it.

327

00:14:10,715 --> 00:14:13,418

Even Voyager had very rudimentary

328

00:14:13,451 --> 00:14:14,119

logic for controlling.

329

00:14:14,152 --> 00:14:15,320

In fact, most of our spacecraft

330

00:14:15,353 --> 00:14:17,556

didn't know where they were in outer space

331

00:14:17,589 --> 00:14:19,958

or even knew its orientation, let alone,

332

00:14:19,991 --> 00:14:22,261

where it's positioned

but it did know

333

00:14:22,294 --> 00:14:24,229

that there was a  
bright star over there

334

00:14:24,262 --> 00:14:26,365

and if it moves too  
far away from it,

335

00:14:26,398 --> 00:14:27,866

the sensor would complain.

336

00:14:27,899 --> 00:14:29,134

>> Julie: Would complain.

337

00:14:29,167 --> 00:14:31,536

>> And that's all I  
needed to do and so,

338

00:14:31,569 --> 00:14:33,038

so it's very simple.

339

00:14:33,071 --> 00:14:34,539

Let me also point out that  
these vehicles back then

340

00:14:34,572 --> 00:14:38,243

and up until Cassini which  
is one among the first,

341

00:14:38,276 --> 00:14:40,112

well, they're all built by hand.

342

00:14:40,145 --> 00:14:41,546

These vehicles were  
designed and built.

343

00:14:41,579 --> 00:14:42,848

We didn't use computers.

344

00:14:42,881 --> 00:14:45,117

Lots of big blueprints, pencils.

345

00:14:45,150 --> 00:14:46,051

>> Julie: Lots of blueprints.

346

00:14:46,084 --> 00:14:47,319

We still get the blueprints.

347

00:14:47,352 --> 00:14:50,822

>> And hand, just hand  
soldered, electronics

348

00:14:50,855 --> 00:14:54,593

with, sometimes, with  
just individual wires

349

00:14:54,626 --> 00:14:55,394

from a blueprint

350

00:14:55,427 --> 00:14:57,796

trying to make sure  
that the design

351

00:14:57,829 --> 00:14:59,331

was built like the blueprint.

352

00:14:59,364 --> 00:15:01,233

And that's how it was  
done for years and years.

353

00:15:01,266 --> 00:15:04,536

Can you imagine how easy  
it was to make a mistake

354

00:15:04,569 --> 00:15:06,605

with thousands of,

355

00:15:06,638 --> 00:15:09,775

hundreds of thousands of  
feet, sometimes, of wires.

356

00:15:09,808 --> 00:15:12,911

>> Or the bane of my existence  
where you had to rework it

357

00:15:12,944 --> 00:15:15,314

when you had to pull off  
a circuit and rework it

358

00:15:15,347 --> 00:15:17,382

and you hope you got  
all the solder out

359

00:15:17,415 --> 00:15:20,485

and if you didn't get  
all the solder out.

360

00:15:20,518 --> 00:15:21,420

>> Yeah, you need good wires.

361

00:15:21,453 --> 00:15:22,621

>> And then you worry.

362

00:15:22,654 --> 00:15:25,023

Anybody that's ever  
worked on cars.

363

00:15:25,056 --> 00:15:27,092

>> So obviously,  
we've come a long way

364

00:15:27,125 --> 00:15:28,927

and you guys no longer have  
to get your hands dirty

365

00:15:28,960 --> 00:15:31,196  
with solder on them, right?

366  
00:15:32,297 --> 00:15:34,833  
>> Julie: They didn't  
let us do that.

367  
00:15:34,866 --> 00:15:36,501  
>> It got me once,  
and that was it.

368  
00:15:36,534 --> 00:15:38,370  
>> So let's move forward in time

369  
00:15:38,403 --> 00:15:40,539  
to the next major milestone

370  
00:15:40,572 --> 00:15:41,773  
which is once we succeeded

371  
00:15:41,806 --> 00:15:44,209  
in just reaching  
on other planets,

372  
00:15:44,242 --> 00:15:46,378  
the next major milestone  
was to stay for a while

373  
00:15:46,411 --> 00:15:47,980  
and have a good look around.

374  
00:15:48,013 --> 00:15:50,148  
In other words, to  
orbit another world.

375  
00:15:50,181 --> 00:15:52,584  
And so Julie, you  
have sent four,

376

00:15:52,617 --> 00:15:55,087  
you've worked on four orbiters  
on four other planets.

377  
00:15:55,120 --> 00:15:57,589  
Can you talk about  
what's different

378  
00:15:57,622 --> 00:15:59,391  
about getting a robot into orbit

379  
00:15:59,424 --> 00:16:02,094  
and operating there for  
an extended period of time

380  
00:16:02,127 --> 00:16:05,597  
versus just a spacecraft that's  
cruising from here to there

381  
00:16:05,630 --> 00:16:06,999  
or flying by a place.

382  
00:16:07,032 --> 00:16:09,434  
>> Well, the most important  
thing is time to go.

383  
00:16:09,467 --> 00:16:12,637  
If you're orbiting,  
you have critical times

384  
00:16:12,670 --> 00:16:14,373  
that where you  
wanna take pictures

385  
00:16:14,406 --> 00:16:15,774  
or you wanna not take pictures

386  
00:16:15,807 --> 00:16:18,677  
or you wanna maneuver  
the spacecraft or not.

387

00:16:18,710 --> 00:16:22,914

If you're just cruising,  
your time to go is forever

388

00:16:22,947 --> 00:16:25,684

and so you have, something  
we're gonna talk about

389

00:16:25,717 --> 00:16:27,185

in a minute, fault protection

390

00:16:27,218 --> 00:16:30,723

that you can be imperfect  
for a long time.

391

00:16:32,524 --> 00:16:36,928

If you have to make an encounter  
with a moon or a planet

392

00:16:36,961 --> 00:16:39,598

or take a picture at exact time,

393

00:16:39,631 --> 00:16:43,769

you have to be very mindful  
and you have to stay in contact

394

00:16:43,802 --> 00:16:46,205

with that vehicle more often.

395

00:16:47,172 --> 00:16:48,473

Lots of times, we let them go

396

00:16:48,506 --> 00:16:50,842

and not kind of stay in  
contact like once a week

397

00:16:50,875 --> 00:16:53,045

or something like that.

398

00:16:53,078 --> 00:16:55,647

Cassini was nine hours a day and then sometimes,

399

00:16:55,680 --> 00:16:58,150

every other day and then every third day.

400

00:16:58,183 --> 00:17:02,187

So it's just a matter of the critical time to go

401

00:17:03,354 --> 00:17:05,590

and that's what I try to teach, it's time to go.

402

00:17:05,623 --> 00:17:08,160

>> Okay, well let's take a look now at the first time

403

00:17:08,193 --> 00:17:11,730

NASA put a spacecraft into orbit around another planet

404

00:17:11,763 --> 00:17:13,665

with Mariner 9 in 1971.

405

00:17:16,568 --> 00:17:18,570

>> Narrator: The first great engineering challenge

406

00:17:18,603 --> 00:17:22,040

in robotic exploration was to fly by a destination

407

00:17:22,073 --> 00:17:24,042

for a brief glimpse.

408

00:17:24,075 --> 00:17:25,844

The next feat was  
to build a machine

409

00:17:25,877 --> 00:17:29,214

capable of going into  
orbit around a planet.

410

00:17:29,247 --> 00:17:33,385

In 1971, a very next  
opportunity to go to Mars,

411

00:17:33,418 --> 00:17:35,921

JPL had taken the  
idea of an orbiter

412

00:17:35,954 --> 00:17:38,790

from the drawing board  
to the launch pad.

413

00:17:38,823 --> 00:17:42,260

>> The basic spacecraft was  
pretty much pure Mariner

414

00:17:42,293 --> 00:17:45,697

but it had this humongous  
propulsion module on it

415

00:17:45,730 --> 00:17:48,100

to slow the spacecraft  
down when you got to Mars

416

00:17:48,133 --> 00:17:51,269

to the point where it could  
be captured by Mars gravity.

417

00:17:51,302 --> 00:17:54,439

That presented some  
interesting challenges.

418

00:17:54,472 --> 00:17:59,111

You had to store propellants  
in space for nine months

419

00:17:59,144 --> 00:18:01,446

and then use them and  
crush your fingers

420

00:18:01,479 --> 00:18:04,850

and hope that everything worked  
the way it was supposed to.

421

00:18:04,883 --> 00:18:07,419

>> Announcer: Mariner 9  
became the first spacecraft

422

00:18:07,452 --> 00:18:09,855

ever to orbit another planet.

423

00:18:13,191 --> 00:18:16,595

>> It was a kind of  
epiphany in the sense

424

00:18:16,628 --> 00:18:19,197

of what an orbiter can  
do versus of flyby.

425

00:18:19,230 --> 00:18:21,666

The previous flybys, and  
it was just coincidentally,

426

00:18:21,699 --> 00:18:26,371

they'd flown by the  
uninteresting side of Mars.

427

00:18:26,404 --> 00:18:28,773

>> And when the dust cleared,

428

00:18:28,806 --> 00:18:31,176

we found a planet that

was completely unlike

429

00:18:31,209 --> 00:18:33,345  
the one that Mariner 4 had seen

430

00:18:33,378 --> 00:18:36,381  
and that Mariner 6  
and 7 completely.

431

00:18:37,849 --> 00:18:41,720  
And so this planet which we  
had labeled is like the moon

432

00:18:41,753 --> 00:18:44,556  
sudden looked like the Earth  
except bigger volcanoes,

433

00:18:44,589 --> 00:18:46,858  
bigger flood channels,  
the canyon that runs

434

00:18:46,891 --> 00:18:49,161  
the distance of the  
United States across

435

00:18:49,194 --> 00:18:53,365  
and is 60 miles wide in  
places and six miles deep.

436

00:18:55,200 --> 00:18:56,468  
The Grand Canyon of Arizona

437

00:18:56,501 --> 00:19:00,172  
would fit in one little  
tributary off the side.

438

00:19:00,205 --> 00:19:03,675  
So we got really zapped because  
not only was it Earth-like

439

00:19:03,708 --> 00:19:05,977

but everything is  
larger than the Earth.

440

00:19:06,010 --> 00:19:08,547

So that left us  
bewildered geologically

441

00:19:08,580 --> 00:19:11,516

but people are interested  
in life on Mars.

442

00:19:11,549 --> 00:19:13,118

We're ecstatic because clearly,

443

00:19:13,151 --> 00:19:18,157

there had been an aqueous  
phase in this planet's history.

444

00:19:19,591 --> 00:19:21,726

>> So if you stay for a while  
and take a good look around,

445

00:19:21,759 --> 00:19:24,996

you're likely to see  
even more amazing things.

446

00:19:25,029 --> 00:19:27,465

So let's move forward a  
little bit further in time.

447

00:19:27,498 --> 00:19:32,037

Now in 1976, NASA was ready  
to try landing on Mars

448

00:19:32,070 --> 00:19:33,505

for the very first time.

449

00:19:33,538 --> 00:19:35,874

This was the Viking mission  
and it had two orbiters,

450

00:19:35,907 --> 00:19:37,642

each of them was  
carrying a lander.

451

00:19:37,675 --> 00:19:42,681

So Rob, what is it about  
having a robotic spacecraft

452

00:19:44,082 --> 00:19:47,319

actually land itself on Mars  
that makes it such a challenge?

453

00:19:47,352 --> 00:19:50,455

>> Well, we like to  
whine about that a lot.

454

00:19:50,488 --> 00:19:52,391

And I'm the top whiner.

455

00:19:53,258 --> 00:19:54,426

Landing on Mars is really hard.

456

00:19:54,459 --> 00:19:56,995

In fact, if some of  
you've seen this video,

457

00:19:57,028 --> 00:20:00,098

7 Minutes of Terror, the  
seven minutes started

458

00:20:00,131 --> 00:20:02,867

back in the Viking days  
in this Viking lander

459

00:20:02,900 --> 00:20:04,302

and what's striking,

460  
00:20:04,335 --> 00:20:06,538  
so they're the ones,  
the Viking team

461  
00:20:06,571 --> 00:20:09,274  
is the ones who taught  
me and my colleagues

462  
00:20:09,307 --> 00:20:11,810  
how to do this kind of stuff.

463  
00:20:11,843 --> 00:20:13,778  
But I have to say,  
it is really hard.

464  
00:20:13,811 --> 00:20:16,481  
Mars is very, it  
is so irritating.

465  
00:20:16,514 --> 00:20:20,185  
There's too much too  
much atmosphere on Mars

466  
00:20:21,319 --> 00:20:22,821  
to land like we  
do with the moon,

467  
00:20:22,854 --> 00:20:25,390  
just by taking a vehicle  
firing its engine backwards

468  
00:20:25,423 --> 00:20:27,158  
and landing on its legs.

469  
00:20:27,191 --> 00:20:31,430  
And then there's there's  
too little atmosphere to--

470  
00:20:32,897 --> 00:20:33,798

>> Preston: To finish the job.

471

00:20:33,831 --> 00:20:34,733

>> To finish the job, so yeah,

472

00:20:34,766 --> 00:20:37,669

so its atmosphere is too thin.

473

00:20:37,702 --> 00:20:41,373

So to do it like we do on Earth  
with big parachute or wings,

474

00:20:41,406 --> 00:20:44,542

like the Soyuz or Apollo  
or just Space Shuttle

475

00:20:44,575 --> 00:20:46,044

and so it has this  
weird combinations.

476

00:20:46,077 --> 00:20:48,713

You have to kind off  
looking like an Earth lander

477

00:20:48,746 --> 00:20:52,250

and then just somehow,  
like a transformer,

478

00:20:52,283 --> 00:20:56,255

convert yourself into a  
robotic lander which is,

479

00:20:57,455 --> 00:21:00,425

it makes for a very  
Rube Goldberg design.

480

00:21:00,458 --> 00:21:03,061

>> Yeah, so let's  
actually take a look

481  
00:21:03,094 --> 00:21:04,462  
at what that looked like.

482  
00:21:04,495 --> 00:21:06,998  
Let's take a look at  
another video that shows

483  
00:21:07,031 --> 00:21:11,303  
NASA's first attempted  
landing on Mars with Viking.

484  
00:21:13,171 --> 00:21:14,806  
>> Narrator: In the  
early morning hours

485  
00:21:14,839 --> 00:21:17,108  
of July 20th, 1976,

486  
00:21:17,141 --> 00:21:20,111  
the Viking 1 lander  
separated from the orbiter

487  
00:21:20,144 --> 00:21:23,882  
and began the descent  
to the Martian surface.

488  
00:21:27,151 --> 00:21:30,455  
>> Man: Now, we've  
sensed 0.5 g's.

489  
00:21:30,488 --> 00:21:32,891  
>> Man: Telecom, how's the SF?

490  
00:21:32,924 --> 00:21:34,459  
>> Man: It is holding very well.

491  
00:21:34,492 --> 00:21:35,493  
>> Man: In the atmosphere now.

492  
00:21:35,526 --> 00:21:38,063  
[men chattering]

493  
00:21:38,096 --> 00:21:39,497  
>> We have to realize,  
this was before

494  
00:21:39,530 --> 00:21:43,335  
anybody knew about onboard  
software, closed-loop guidance,

495  
00:21:43,368 --> 00:21:45,404  
it had to do a parachute.

496  
00:21:46,637 --> 00:21:48,473  
>> Man: The chute  
has been deployed.

497  
00:21:48,506 --> 00:21:49,941  
>> Man: Telemetry's in sync.

498  
00:21:49,974 --> 00:21:51,676  
>> Then it had to do  
a terminal descent

499  
00:21:51,709 --> 00:21:53,845  
and it's radar, it's  
four beam radar working

500  
00:21:53,878 --> 00:21:55,113  
and land softly.

501  
00:21:55,146 --> 00:21:56,848  
It had to go from  
10,000 miles an hour

502  
00:21:56,881 --> 00:21:59,017  
to between two and  
three miles per hour

503

00:21:59,050 --> 00:22:02,420

in just a few minutes that  
had never been done before.

504

00:22:02,453 --> 00:22:03,621

[men speaking over each other]

505

00:22:03,654 --> 00:22:05,023

>> But this takes time?

506

00:22:05,056 --> 00:22:07,359

>> Man: 1,200 feet,  
140 feet per second.

507

00:22:07,392 --> 00:22:08,193

>> Man: So the engine--

508

00:22:08,226 --> 00:22:10,261

>> Man: 0.6 g's.

509

00:22:10,294 --> 00:22:14,366

>> 20 feet, 366 feet, 73  
feet, 73 feet per second.

510

00:22:14,399 --> 00:22:16,568

>> Man: ACS is  
close to vertical.

511

00:22:16,601 --> 00:22:17,869

>> Man: Now, we're coming down.

512

00:22:17,902 --> 00:22:19,504

Straight down.

513

00:22:19,537 --> 00:22:21,172

>> Man: Now, it's  
green for touchdown.

514

00:22:21,205 --> 00:22:25,643

>> Man: ACS is green, 1.53  
per second match, 0.2 g's.

515

00:22:25,676 --> 00:22:26,678

>> Man: Touchdown,  
we have touchdown.

516

00:22:26,711 --> 00:22:30,549

[all cheering and applauding]

517

00:22:33,851 --> 00:22:36,521

>> A moment in  
every Vikings life

518

00:22:36,554 --> 00:22:38,723

that he or she will never forget

519

00:22:38,756 --> 00:22:41,426

sitting with that television  
right in front of them

520

00:22:41,459 --> 00:22:44,129

and watching as the  
first lines came down,

521

00:22:44,162 --> 00:22:46,998

it came down line  
by line by line.

522

00:22:50,001 --> 00:22:51,803

>> Man: Oh, the rocks.

523

00:22:54,105 --> 00:22:55,607

That's beautiful.

524

00:22:55,640 --> 00:22:59,978

>> The first photograph that  
human being has ever seen

525

00:23:00,011 --> 00:23:02,347  
from the surface  
of another planet.

526

00:23:02,380 --> 00:23:03,848  
>> Man: Say something too.

527

00:23:03,881 --> 00:23:05,083  
>> Man: Yeah, I'm supposed to  
say something at this point.

528

00:23:05,116 --> 00:23:08,353  
I just don't feel like talking.

529

00:23:08,386 --> 00:23:10,488  
It's just it's just  
incredible to see

530

00:23:10,521 --> 00:23:13,024  
that the Mars is really there.

531

00:23:14,492 --> 00:23:18,596  
>> And we all, five billion  
people on the planet Earth,

532

00:23:18,629 --> 00:23:21,366  
saw Mars for the  
very first time.

533

00:23:23,901 --> 00:23:24,736  
>> Wow.

534

00:23:26,637 --> 00:23:30,208  
So Viking provides a  
really good demonstration

535

00:23:30,241 --> 00:23:34,145  
of how our space robots have

become increasingly autonomous

536

00:23:34,178 --> 00:23:37,682

or increasingly capable  
of operating on their own

537

00:23:37,715 --> 00:23:39,083

for periods of time.

538

00:23:39,116 --> 00:23:43,421

So what are some of the factors  
that have made spacecraft

539

00:23:43,454 --> 00:23:45,990

able to be more  
autonomous over the years?

540

00:23:46,023 --> 00:23:47,325

>> Well, computers.

541

00:23:47,358 --> 00:23:48,793

>> Computers.

542

00:23:48,826 --> 00:23:52,964

>> The ability to change from  
analog relays and hardware

543

00:23:52,997 --> 00:23:56,334

to digital to  
reprogrammable to if oops,

544

00:23:57,869 --> 00:24:00,839

I didn't do that right,  
I can reprogram that.

545

00:24:00,872 --> 00:24:03,241

So a lot of it has  
been the computers,

546

00:24:03,274 --> 00:24:07,045

better cameras, faster  
data rates, faster speeds,

547

00:24:07,078 --> 00:24:08,580

faster processing.

548

00:24:10,381 --> 00:24:12,650

But mostly, computers  
and software.

549

00:24:12,683 --> 00:24:15,253

>> That enabled it but we  
really had to do it right

550

00:24:15,286 --> 00:24:16,788

because sometimes,

551

00:24:19,423 --> 00:24:21,659

your vehicle is on its own

552

00:24:21,692 --> 00:24:23,328

and if something weird happens--

553

00:24:23,361 --> 00:24:25,430

>> Julie: It has to  
take care of itself.

554

00:24:25,463 --> 00:24:28,366

>> Yeah, and so, of course,  
with introduced at landing,

555

00:24:28,399 --> 00:24:31,002

you can't really joystick  
the thing from Earth

556

00:24:31,035 --> 00:24:32,470

because it's so far away.

557

00:24:32,503 --> 00:24:35,607

The time your signal gets there, you've already landed.

558

00:24:35,640 --> 00:24:40,645

So you need to program it all in and in the case of landing,

559

00:24:41,512 --> 00:24:43,315

it's a bit more complicated

560

00:24:44,515 --> 00:24:45,550

than just dealing with the failure.

561

00:24:45,583 --> 00:24:47,385

>> Well, we've got a Voyager.

562

00:24:47,418 --> 00:24:50,121

>> Yeah, I wanted it to put a point

563

00:24:50,154 --> 00:24:52,290

on the not just the power of the computers

564

00:24:52,323 --> 00:24:54,392

but it's the size too, right?

565

00:24:54,425 --> 00:24:56,361

I mean the computers got smaller over time.

566

00:24:56,394 --> 00:24:57,862

>> Well, everything got smaller.

567

00:24:57,895 --> 00:24:58,796

>> Preston: Everything got smaller.

568

00:24:58,829 --> 00:25:00,064

>> Everything got smaller.

569

00:25:00,097 --> 00:25:02,400

Although if you look  
at the basic design,

570

00:25:02,433 --> 00:25:05,236

you saw those Mariners,  
they were six-sided

571

00:25:05,269 --> 00:25:06,738

and then we went to eight sided

572

00:25:06,771 --> 00:25:09,307

and then we went to  
12 sided on Cassini

573

00:25:09,340 --> 00:25:13,011

but the basic design,  
it builds on the back.

574

00:25:14,278 --> 00:25:15,747

Everything builds on.

575

00:25:15,780 --> 00:25:18,383

So you learn the lessons  
and you relearn them

576

00:25:18,416 --> 00:25:19,717

and you re-relearn them.

577

00:25:19,750 --> 00:25:21,252

>> Yeah, exactly.

578

00:25:21,285 --> 00:25:23,688

And part of the way how they  
got these computers smaller

579

00:25:23,721 --> 00:25:27,425

to do something, to fit  
in those those eight side

580

00:25:27,458 --> 00:25:30,728

or 12 sided base is that  
one computer, for example,

581

00:25:30,761 --> 00:25:33,998

would process all its  
information one bit at a time.

582

00:25:34,031 --> 00:25:35,967

So they weren't  
presses and we do now,

583

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:39,103

we want our computers execute

584

00:25:39,136 --> 00:25:41,439

full multi bit  
instructions that each time

585

00:25:41,472 --> 00:25:43,541

so when you look at your  
phone and so though I'm a,

586

00:25:43,574 --> 00:25:46,077

it's a five gigahertz--

587

00:25:46,110 --> 00:25:48,179

>> You can have some seven  
windows at the same time

588

00:25:48,212 --> 00:25:50,748

instead of, you can talk  
and now, you can talk

589

00:25:50,781 --> 00:25:51,649

and now, you can talk.  
>> So basically it does,

590  
00:25:51,682 --> 00:25:53,952  
should add two numbers together,

591  
00:25:53,985 --> 00:25:56,020  
you had to add all the  
individual bits together

592  
00:25:56,053 --> 00:25:57,155  
one at a time.

593  
00:25:57,188 --> 00:25:58,890  
To add the number five,

594  
00:25:58,923 --> 00:26:00,858  
you would have to  
add a one, zero, one.

595  
00:26:00,891 --> 00:26:02,594  
And one at a time  
into the computer

596  
00:26:02,627 --> 00:26:05,063  
and that would come back out,

597  
00:26:06,364 --> 00:26:08,366  
more more bits would  
come out one at a time

598  
00:26:08,399 --> 00:26:09,701  
and eventually, you  
get the job done.

599  
00:26:09,734 --> 00:26:11,669  
So you'd have to  
wait an eternity

600

00:26:11,702 --> 00:26:13,871  
for the thing to do  
any some calculation

601  
00:26:13,904 --> 00:26:15,373  
that you needed to do.

602  
00:26:15,406 --> 00:26:17,041  
>> Preston: So they learned  
how to multitask, essentially.

603  
00:26:17,074 --> 00:26:18,509  
>> Rob: Well--

604  
00:26:18,542 --> 00:26:19,677  
>> Preston: I think, to keep  
more than one thought going on.

605  
00:26:19,710 --> 00:26:21,112  
>> Rob: They weren't that smart.

606  
00:26:21,145 --> 00:26:24,215  
>> Preston: I'm anthropomizing  
a little too much, okay.

607  
00:26:24,248 --> 00:26:26,184  
>> But gradually,  
they did over time.

608  
00:26:26,217 --> 00:26:28,319  
Multitasking became part of it.

609  
00:26:28,352 --> 00:26:31,122  
In fact, Galileo and  
Cassini were two examples

610  
00:26:31,155 --> 00:26:34,092  
of missions that we had  
to do this, multitasking.

611  
00:26:34,125 --> 00:26:35,893  
Which means with a  
better processor,

612  
00:26:35,926 --> 00:26:37,395  
now he can go, you  
can think a little bit

613  
00:26:37,428 --> 00:26:39,230  
about this part of the problem

614  
00:26:39,263 --> 00:26:40,698  
and then a little bit  
more in this problem.

615  
00:26:40,731 --> 00:26:42,233  
>> A little background  
process over the computer.

616  
00:26:42,266 --> 00:26:46,337  
>> Right, and that was true  
a little bit with the lander,

617  
00:26:46,370 --> 00:26:47,538  
Viking lander.

618  
00:26:47,571 --> 00:26:49,574  
They had a very simple,  
very simple computer

619  
00:26:49,607 --> 00:26:52,977  
but it was actually very  
power hog back in those days.

620  
00:26:53,010 --> 00:26:57,548  
They used bipolar parts and  
it really screened for its day

621  
00:26:57,581 --> 00:26:59,450

but we couldn't  
fly our other stuff

622  
00:26:59,483 --> 00:27:01,119  
because it just took  
too much electricity.

623  
00:27:01,152 --> 00:27:05,289  
And so, but when it did its  
job over that period of time,

624  
00:27:05,322 --> 00:27:09,360  
it was first checking this  
sensor, then this the sensor

625  
00:27:09,393 --> 00:27:11,329  
figuring out what  
calculation to make

626  
00:27:11,362 --> 00:27:13,231  
to figure out how much  
to change the thrusters

627  
00:27:13,264 --> 00:27:16,134  
to make sure it wouldn't tip  
over and control its velocity,

628  
00:27:16,167 --> 00:27:17,502  
take more data from the radar.

629  
00:27:17,535 --> 00:27:18,736  
>> Julie: Figure out the radar.

630  
00:27:18,769 --> 00:27:20,772  
>> And figure out where  
it was and so quickly,

631  
00:27:20,805 --> 00:27:22,006  
I have to change  
this a little bit.

632

00:27:22,039 --> 00:27:24,042

And would do this  
on a cycle of about,

633

00:27:24,075 --> 00:27:27,111

I think was 64 times  
a second at that time

634

00:27:27,144 --> 00:27:29,113

with the time which is  
considered really fast

635

00:27:29,146 --> 00:27:30,214

back in the 1970s.

636

00:27:30,247 --> 00:27:31,649

>> That was pretty fancy.

637

00:27:31,682 --> 00:27:34,652

>> Or homemade kind of a small  
especially built computer.

638

00:27:34,685 --> 00:27:37,055

>> So there's another milestone

639

00:27:37,088 --> 00:27:38,890

on the path to  
smarter spacecraft

640

00:27:38,923 --> 00:27:40,858

and it's something  
called fault protection.

641

00:27:40,891 --> 00:27:43,494

So can you talk a little  
bit about what that is

642

00:27:43,527 --> 00:27:44,762

and what it's good for.

643

00:27:44,795 --> 00:27:46,030

>> Yeah, fault protection.

644

00:27:46,063 --> 00:27:47,265

What you have to do  
is these spacecraft

645

00:27:47,298 --> 00:27:49,267

have to be able to  
take care of themselves

646

00:27:49,300 --> 00:27:51,769

and that's what you were  
talking when you're in cruise,

647

00:27:51,802 --> 00:27:53,871

you can take care of  
yourself for a long time.

648

00:27:53,904 --> 00:27:57,275

The first time I heard this  
term was on Mars Observer

649

00:27:57,308 --> 00:28:00,311

but we have what we  
call sun comm power.

650

00:28:00,344 --> 00:28:04,515

So your spacecraft, if it  
doesn't know where it's at,

651

00:28:04,548 --> 00:28:07,852

it finds us, as Rob said, the  
brightest thing in the sky

652

00:28:07,885 --> 00:28:09,153

and if it has solar panels,

653

00:28:09,186 --> 00:28:11,756

it tries to get its  
panels on the sun

654

00:28:11,789 --> 00:28:15,593

and then it tries to establish  
communications with Earth.

655

00:28:15,626 --> 00:28:19,397

So it knows in advance  
if Earth is over this way

656

00:28:19,430 --> 00:28:22,767

or over that way and to  
choose the right antenna

657

00:28:22,800 --> 00:28:24,168

for which way.

658

00:28:24,201 --> 00:28:27,004

And then it goes to  
a communication style

659

00:28:27,037 --> 00:28:29,674

that it just sits  
there and waits for,

660

00:28:29,707 --> 00:28:31,576

kind of waits for  
the Earth to tell,

661

00:28:31,609 --> 00:28:33,911

to press to call home.

662

00:28:33,944 --> 00:28:35,880

And then it's sun comm power,

663

00:28:35,913 --> 00:28:38,449

then you turn everything

off that's not necessary.

664

00:28:38,482 --> 00:28:39,917

Obviously, if you're in trouble

665

00:28:39,950 --> 00:28:41,085

and don't know where you are,

666

00:28:41,118 --> 00:28:43,121

you're not taking science.

667

00:28:43,154 --> 00:28:45,289

So you turn off

unnecessary parts

668

00:28:45,322 --> 00:28:48,359

and then you just wait for

the ground to intervene

669

00:28:48,392 --> 00:28:51,095

and fault protection,

that's one of the things

670

00:28:51,128 --> 00:28:53,765

that's gotten more and

more and more sophisticated

671

00:28:53,798 --> 00:28:55,233

as time's gone on.

672

00:28:55,266 --> 00:28:56,467

>> Preston: So you guys

have learned an engineering,

673

00:28:56,500 --> 00:28:58,269

an aerospace engineering

term tonight.

674

00:28:58,302 --> 00:29:00,071

>> Sun comm power.  
>> Sun comm power.

675  
00:29:00,104 --> 00:29:01,272  
>> Sun communications power.

676  
00:29:01,305 --> 00:29:02,573  
Sun comm power.

677  
00:29:02,606 --> 00:29:04,075  
So let's actually  
take a look at that.

678  
00:29:04,108 --> 00:29:07,178  
Let's go back to August of 1977

679  
00:29:07,211 --> 00:29:09,347  
and the launch of the  
Voyager 2 spacecraft

680  
00:29:09,380 --> 00:29:13,985  
to see this kind of autonomy  
and action for the first time.

681  
00:29:14,018 --> 00:29:16,621  
>> Announcer: Three, two, one.

682  
00:29:18,055 --> 00:29:21,592  
We have ignition and we  
have lift off of the Titan

683  
00:29:21,625 --> 00:29:24,562  
sent off carrying the first  
of two Voyager spacecraft

684  
00:29:24,595 --> 00:29:27,632  
to extend men's senses  
farther into the solar system

685

00:29:27,665 --> 00:29:29,267  
than ever before.

686  
00:29:29,300 --> 00:29:30,535  
>> Narrator: Voyager's  
programmers

687  
00:29:30,568 --> 00:29:31,502  
had taught the  
spacecraft

688  
00:29:31,535 --> 00:29:34,005  
that if it sensed  
anything unusual

689  
00:29:34,038 --> 00:29:36,440  
to switch to backup systems

690  
00:29:36,473 --> 00:29:39,744  
and that's exactly what  
had already occurred.

691  
00:29:39,777 --> 00:29:43,014  
Engineers call this  
fault protection.

692  
00:29:43,047 --> 00:29:46,851  
>> The fault protection  
started doing its thing

693  
00:29:46,884 --> 00:29:48,286  
reconfiguring the system,

694  
00:29:48,319 --> 00:29:50,755  
are still attached to  
the launch vehicle.

695  
00:29:50,788 --> 00:29:53,858  
It's in the early  
stages of its flight

696

00:29:53,891 --> 00:29:58,496

and the first thing we see  
here the gyros being swapped.

697

00:29:58,529 --> 00:30:00,431

>> Narrator: Gyros  
provide a sense of balance

698

00:30:00,464 --> 00:30:02,567

and orientation.

699

00:30:02,600 --> 00:30:07,271

And Voyager 2's gyros  
believed something was wrong.

700

00:30:07,304 --> 00:30:10,374

That was because JPL engineers  
had not prepared Voyager

701

00:30:10,407 --> 00:30:14,512

for how rough a ride  
the launch would be.

702

00:30:14,545 --> 00:30:17,215

>> The launch vehicle as  
part of its powered flight

703

00:30:17,248 --> 00:30:18,917

went through a roll.

704

00:30:20,284 --> 00:30:22,119

And the spacecraft would never  
have done that on its own

705

00:30:22,152 --> 00:30:24,722

so spacecraft thought  
that was a fault.

706

00:30:24,755 --> 00:30:27,558  
>> So it went through this  
whole sequence of trying things

707  
00:30:27,591 --> 00:30:29,627  
and we, holy mackerel,  
this spacecraft

708  
00:30:29,660 --> 00:30:31,996  
looks like it's going bonkers.

709  
00:30:32,029 --> 00:30:34,432  
And we thought that we'd  
lost the spacecraft.

710  
00:30:34,465 --> 00:30:35,800  
>> Chris: Finally,  
we got to separate

711  
00:30:35,833 --> 00:30:37,368  
from the launch vehicle

712  
00:30:37,401 --> 00:30:40,304  
and we were on our own but  
the problems weren't over.

713  
00:30:40,337 --> 00:30:42,473  
>> Narrator: The boom  
holding science instruments

714  
00:30:42,506 --> 00:30:45,743  
appeared not to have  
locked into place.

715  
00:30:47,144 --> 00:30:51,583  
And far worse, the spacecraft  
was now slowly tumbling.

716  
00:30:55,853 --> 00:30:57,655  
A last-ditch suggestion was made

717

00:30:57,688 --> 00:31:00,658  
to stop the computer and reboot.

718

00:31:00,691 --> 00:31:02,960  
But Chris Jones knew  
that then the spacecraft

719

00:31:02,993 --> 00:31:05,129  
would be unable to  
lock on to the Sun

720

00:31:05,162 --> 00:31:08,399  
to properly orient itself  
to head on to Jupiter

721

00:31:08,432 --> 00:31:10,968  
and that would mean  
a lost mission.

722

00:31:11,001 --> 00:31:13,237  
>> When I heard  
the recommendation

723

00:31:13,270 --> 00:31:13,938  
come from Pasadena

724

00:31:13,971 --> 00:31:16,040  
that let's send that to error,

725

00:31:16,073 --> 00:31:18,976  
I knew instantly that that  
was the wrong thing to do.

726

00:31:19,009 --> 00:31:21,178  
Now, I had to convince people  
who were still mystified

727

00:31:21,211 --> 00:31:23,514

as to why anything was happening

728

00:31:23,547 --> 00:31:26,884

but I think Glen believed  
in me as did John

729

00:31:26,917 --> 00:31:28,085

that we shouldn't do that

730

00:31:28,118 --> 00:31:31,956

and so that was the  
decision that was made.

731

00:31:31,989 --> 00:31:33,457

>> Narrator: The  
Voyagers were designed

732

00:31:33,490 --> 00:31:37,261

to take care of themselves  
in the far reaches of space.

733

00:31:37,294 --> 00:31:39,530

No one thought the first  
test of its ability

734

00:31:39,563 --> 00:31:42,166

to survive on its own would  
happen in the early hours

735

00:31:42,199 --> 00:31:43,668

of the mission.

736

00:31:43,701 --> 00:31:46,170

But that is exactly what it did.

737

00:31:46,203 --> 00:31:50,174

After swapping thrusters, gyros  
and finally, the computers,

738

00:31:50,207 --> 00:31:51,943  
Voyager 2 stabilized.

739

00:31:54,545 --> 00:31:57,381  
>> Well, it's good they  
listened to that young engineer.

740

00:31:57,414 --> 00:32:00,618  
Let the spacecraft do what  
it was programmed to do.

741

00:32:00,651 --> 00:32:01,852  
>> That's right.

742

00:32:01,885 --> 00:32:03,154  
We still try to do  
it that way too.

743

00:32:03,187 --> 00:32:05,923  
I mean, the whole idea  
is to train these things

744

00:32:05,956 --> 00:32:07,725  
to deal with these responses.

745

00:32:07,758 --> 00:32:10,127  
If we go around from Earth  
and start mucking with it,

746

00:32:10,160 --> 00:32:13,397  
there's like having two  
people in charge of your robot

747

00:32:13,430 --> 00:32:16,901  
at the same time and you  
end up with bad results,

748

00:32:16,934 --> 00:32:19,503  
when we you have two  
people in charge, as know.

749

00:32:19,536 --> 00:32:21,939

>> That's exactly right.

750

00:32:21,972 --> 00:32:23,808

>> Well, okay, so yeah.

751

00:32:23,841 --> 00:32:26,877

Let's leap forward  
another 20 years

752

00:32:26,910 --> 00:32:28,646

to another important milestone

753

00:32:28,679 --> 00:32:31,916

which was the first  
rover on Mars.

754

00:32:31,949 --> 00:32:33,618

Rob, you were there.

755

00:32:34,551 --> 00:32:36,487

We've established that.

756

00:32:37,688 --> 00:32:38,756

>> Julie: I'm off to  
into a big mission.

757

00:32:38,789 --> 00:32:39,590

>> Yeah, yeah.

758

00:32:39,623 --> 00:32:40,758

>> Preston: Ooh, ooh.

759

00:32:40,791 --> 00:32:42,159

[laughing]

760

00:32:42,192 --> 00:32:43,094

>> I built your computers  
for your mission.

761  
00:32:43,127 --> 00:32:45,596  
>> Here we go, here we go.

762  
00:32:45,629 --> 00:32:49,200  
Seriously, this required  
a new level of autonomy

763  
00:32:49,233 --> 00:32:50,568  
and complexity, didn't it?

764  
00:32:50,601 --> 00:32:53,738  
>> Yeah, as a matter  
of fact, so we stole

765  
00:32:53,771 --> 00:32:56,440  
a lot of technology  
from Cassini project

766  
00:32:56,473 --> 00:32:58,876  
and we stuck it with  
some new technology

767  
00:32:58,909 --> 00:33:00,745  
that we hadn't had before.

768  
00:33:00,778 --> 00:33:01,979  
It had some decent,

769  
00:33:02,012 --> 00:33:04,015  
first time, some really  
decent computer power

770  
00:33:04,048 --> 00:33:05,783  
and some decent computer memory.

771  
00:33:05,816 --> 00:33:08,586

And we stuffed it  
into a little lander.

772

00:33:08,619 --> 00:33:11,989

For the first time, a fully  
centralized computing system

773

00:33:12,022 --> 00:33:13,357

because before, they  
were distributed

774

00:33:13,390 --> 00:33:15,326

with little computers  
here and there,

775

00:33:15,359 --> 00:33:16,327

we had to put it  
all in one space.

776

00:33:16,360 --> 00:33:17,795

Not because I wanted it,

777

00:33:17,828 --> 00:33:21,032

we needed it centralized,  
just we had no room to put it.

778

00:33:21,065 --> 00:33:22,266

We only a little tiny space

779

00:33:22,299 --> 00:33:26,203

inside a tetrahedral  
shaped Mars lander

780

00:33:26,236 --> 00:33:29,540

that was headed to Mars in 1997.

781

00:33:29,573 --> 00:33:31,709

And then later, in  
the 4th of July.

782

00:33:31,742 --> 00:33:33,010

>> That was was a  
good day around here.

783

00:33:33,043 --> 00:33:34,812

>> Julie: It was a good day.

784

00:33:34,845 --> 00:33:37,782

>> So the irony is that  
many the technology

785

00:33:37,815 --> 00:33:39,984

we took and stole from Cassini,

786

00:33:40,017 --> 00:33:42,787

we actually got a chance to  
launch before Cassini did

787

00:33:42,820 --> 00:33:45,289

so we got a chance to  
test her spacecrafts.

788

00:33:45,322 --> 00:33:47,425

>> That's exactly  
true, actually.

789

00:33:47,458 --> 00:33:49,026

>> Rob: Yeah, that's fine.

790

00:33:49,059 --> 00:33:51,028

>> Well, we have we  
have another video here

791

00:33:51,061 --> 00:33:53,764

of what it was like  
here at NASA JPL

792

00:33:53,797 --> 00:33:56,667

at the time that

Pathfinder landed

793

00:33:56,700 --> 00:34:00,104  
and let's take a look  
at that dramatic moment.

794

00:34:00,137 --> 00:34:04,342  
>> Narrator: Friday morning,  
the 4th of July, 1997.

795

00:34:05,509 --> 00:34:08,012  
[tense music]

796

00:34:12,282 --> 00:34:15,319  
>> Man: The Pathfinder in  
it's first stage separation.

797

00:34:15,352 --> 00:34:17,621  
>> Man: Right, this is the Mars  
Pathfinder flight director,

798

00:34:17,654 --> 00:34:22,660  
we have confirmed that first  
stage separation has occurred.

799

00:34:23,393 --> 00:34:24,629  
30 seconds till entry.

800

00:34:26,830 --> 00:34:29,867  
Spacecraft is now slowing  
down very rapidly.

801

00:34:29,900 --> 00:34:34,739  
We expect that the parachute  
will deploy about 15 seconds.

802

00:34:40,210 --> 00:34:42,279  
Parachute have now deployed.

803

00:34:42,312 --> 00:34:45,049  
[exciting music]

804  
00:34:54,391 --> 00:34:58,963  
Lander separation should have  
occurred right about now.

805  
00:35:00,264 --> 00:35:02,433  
Airbag should be inflated.

806  
00:35:04,735 --> 00:35:07,338  
[moving music]

807  
00:35:19,850 --> 00:35:23,854  
[muffled speaking through radio]

808  
00:35:23,887 --> 00:35:24,688  
>> Yes!  
>> That ought to do that.

809  
00:35:24,721 --> 00:35:25,623  
>> Yes, yes!

810  
00:36:00,290 --> 00:36:01,859  
>> Man: We have a  
confirmed signal.

811  
00:36:01,892 --> 00:36:05,796  
[all cheering and applauding]

812  
00:36:15,772 --> 00:36:17,074  
>> Rob: Yeah.

813  
00:36:17,107 --> 00:36:19,210  
>> You recognize this guy.

814  
00:36:20,210 --> 00:36:23,147  
>> I haven't changed, am I?

815

00:36:23,180 --> 00:36:26,317

No, it's important to point  
out when you see these videos

816

00:36:26,350 --> 00:36:30,188

of Viking, Pathfinder,  
Spirit and Opportunity,

817

00:36:31,421 --> 00:36:33,757

Curiosity, all these  
other things that land,

818

00:36:33,790 --> 00:36:36,827

all these people are leaping  
up in just joy, right?

819

00:36:36,860 --> 00:36:38,196

No, it's relief.

820

00:36:39,696 --> 00:36:43,167

It's relief because  
you're having nightmares

821

00:36:43,200 --> 00:36:46,604

right up to the morning,  
what did we forget to test?

822

00:36:46,637 --> 00:36:49,273

What is it I don't  
know about this thing?

823

00:36:49,306 --> 00:36:50,507

>> Julie: We've gone  
through every path

824

00:36:50,540 --> 00:36:51,442

of fault protection.  
>> We've gone through

825

00:36:51,475 --> 00:36:52,977  
every path of fault protection.

826  
00:36:53,010 --> 00:36:56,313  
And so interesting  
about Pathfinder

827  
00:36:56,346 --> 00:36:58,616  
because it's based  
a lot of the same,

828  
00:36:58,649 --> 00:37:00,417  
the fault protection  
architectures and things,

829  
00:37:00,450 --> 00:37:04,788  
so the kinds of things  
that we basically adapted

830  
00:37:04,821 --> 00:37:08,592  
the architectures from  
Cassini and Voyager

831  
00:37:08,625 --> 00:37:10,394  
and gave it a little  
bit more smarts.

832  
00:37:10,427 --> 00:37:13,063  
It's kinda like we're  
adding layers of complexity

833  
00:37:13,096 --> 00:37:16,500  
on the existing architecture  
because this little rover,

834  
00:37:16,533 --> 00:37:19,370  
on this land er, I'm sorry  
I had to fly itself to Mars,

835  
00:37:19,403 --> 00:37:22,439

do the landing process  
and open up like a flower

836

00:37:22,472 --> 00:37:26,577

and begin the process of  
controlling the vehicle.

837

00:37:28,011 --> 00:37:32,483

but it's but you couldn't  
actually do it clockwork

838

00:37:32,516 --> 00:37:34,518

because you didn't know exactly

839

00:37:34,551 --> 00:37:36,020

when you're gonna  
hit the atmosphere.

840

00:37:36,053 --> 00:37:37,788

You didn't know exactly  
when to open the parachute.

841

00:37:37,821 --> 00:37:40,124

So it had to be more reactive  
with its environment.

842

00:37:40,157 --> 00:37:43,927

It had to sense the  
deceleration of the atmosphere

843

00:37:43,960 --> 00:37:46,130

and the sense how far we  
are as respect to the ground

844

00:37:46,163 --> 00:37:48,065

just like the  
Viking missions did.

845

00:37:48,098 --> 00:37:49,767

And those, of course,

they taught us

846

00:37:49,800 --> 00:37:51,168  
most of what we needed to know

847

00:37:51,201 --> 00:37:54,571  
because we were a pretty  
young team here at JPL.

848

00:37:54,604 --> 00:37:59,443  
So but we used the same  
concepts and architectures

849

00:37:59,476 --> 00:38:02,212  
that Cassini and the fault  
tolerance we used there,

850

00:38:02,245 --> 00:38:03,614  
you used to.

851

00:38:03,647 --> 00:38:07,384  
We're trying to mill the  
concept of doing things

852

00:38:07,417 --> 00:38:10,954  
on a schedule versus  
interacting with dynamic things

853

00:38:10,987 --> 00:38:12,623  
that happen and  
events that happen.

854

00:38:12,656 --> 00:38:14,925  
>> But you still had to  
take care of yourself.

855

00:38:14,958 --> 00:38:18,362  
You had to make decisions  
that most of spacecraft

856

00:38:18,395 --> 00:38:20,230

that are just flying  
through don't have to make.

857

00:38:20,263 --> 00:38:21,465

>> That's right.

858

00:38:21,498 --> 00:38:23,734

>> And that was  
all before it even,

859

00:38:23,767 --> 00:38:26,270

the rover even rove  
off the lander.

860

00:38:26,303 --> 00:38:30,307

So what's the big difference  
in operating a rover,

861

00:38:30,340 --> 00:38:32,743

a robot that has to move around

862

00:38:32,776 --> 00:38:35,846

versus your stationary lander?

863

00:38:35,879 --> 00:38:38,682

>> In some sense, it's that  
same thing on steroids.

864

00:38:38,715 --> 00:38:41,719

Now, it's you have  
everything you do

865

00:38:43,053 --> 00:38:45,522

is interactive with  
respect to the ground.

866

00:38:45,555 --> 00:38:47,958

And little Sojourner

which had a little ATC-85

867

00:38:47,991 --> 00:38:51,295

8-bit microprocessor,  
very simple little machine

868

00:38:51,328 --> 00:38:53,297

and it didn't have  
complex software,

869

00:38:53,330 --> 00:38:56,934

had simple behaviors but  
it was these behaviors

870

00:38:56,967 --> 00:38:58,569

are very closed  
loop in the sense

871

00:38:58,602 --> 00:39:00,904

that it would try to  
drive, it would stop,

872

00:39:00,937 --> 00:39:03,874

it would send these lasers  
stripes on the ground

873

00:39:03,907 --> 00:39:05,743

and depending what  
where those stripes

874

00:39:05,776 --> 00:39:06,910

ended up in the ground,

875

00:39:06,943 --> 00:39:08,512

all to the camera  
pictures it would take,

876

00:39:08,545 --> 00:39:11,582

it would deduce if there was  
a either a hole or a rock

877

00:39:11,615 --> 00:39:13,617

and if it was a rock,  
he would try to turn

878

00:39:13,650 --> 00:39:15,552

to the left or the  
right and go around it

879

00:39:15,585 --> 00:39:17,454

if it was trying to  
get to destination.

880

00:39:17,487 --> 00:39:19,423

So it became much more  
of an interactive process

881

00:39:19,456 --> 00:39:22,092

but it still wasn't  
radio controlled.

882

00:39:22,125 --> 00:39:25,362

It was basically  
following a script.

883

00:39:25,395 --> 00:39:27,464

The difference is instead  
of using clock work,

884

00:39:27,497 --> 00:39:29,566

it had to be  
event-driven in the sense

885

00:39:29,599 --> 00:39:31,769

that it once would  
finish getting that far,

886

00:39:31,802 --> 00:39:33,737

the next step, not  
based on a clock

887

00:39:33,770 --> 00:39:36,507

but based on success  
would make another step

888

00:39:36,540 --> 00:39:39,410

and try to do the next thing  
in its list of things to do

889

00:39:39,443 --> 00:39:43,414

and that architecture is  
something that we had to add on,

890

00:39:43,447 --> 00:39:44,882

a little bit to Pathfinder.

891

00:39:44,915 --> 00:39:48,886

We continued doing that as  
we added more complexity

892

00:39:48,919 --> 00:39:50,788

going to our next  
generation of rovers.

893

00:39:50,821 --> 00:39:52,489

After that, Spirit  
and Opportunity.

894

00:39:52,522 --> 00:39:55,159

>> So we talked about  
this before the show

895

00:39:55,192 --> 00:39:57,928

that Pathfinder and the  
missions of its era,

896

00:39:57,961 --> 00:39:59,830

the 90s and going forward,

897

00:39:59,863 --> 00:40:03,333  
represented a shift in the  
way that robotic missions

898  
00:40:03,366 --> 00:40:07,104  
were developed and built  
and operated, right?

899  
00:40:08,371 --> 00:40:09,273  
>> Rob: Yeah, yeah.

900  
00:40:09,306 --> 00:40:10,541  
Huge shift.

901  
00:40:10,574 --> 00:40:11,542  
>> A little bit.

902  
00:40:11,575 --> 00:40:12,476  
There's more,

903  
00:40:12,509 --> 00:40:13,844  
it's kinda leads towards,

904  
00:40:13,877 --> 00:40:15,279  
Cassini was still--

905  
00:40:15,312 --> 00:40:16,213  
>> Preston: You mentioned  
the learning curve.

906  
00:40:16,246 --> 00:40:17,848  
>> Oh, a huge learning curve.

907  
00:40:17,881 --> 00:40:19,550  
But one of the things  
we talked about

908  
00:40:19,583 --> 00:40:21,685  
when we were

preparing this program

909

00:40:21,718 --> 00:40:23,887

was how much the humans,

910

00:40:23,920 --> 00:40:26,957

it was still like cabled

by the same person

911

00:40:26,990 --> 00:40:29,293

and the same mechanics

would put it together.

912

00:40:29,326 --> 00:40:32,596

So the the precision

and the difference

913

00:40:34,064 --> 00:40:36,200

between Spirit and Opportunity,

914

00:40:36,233 --> 00:40:39,236

how they how they

handled life differently

915

00:40:39,269 --> 00:40:41,805

and Spirit was lost

several years ago.

916

00:40:41,838 --> 00:40:45,609

So just the whole process

of where you are in time

917

00:40:45,642 --> 00:40:48,579

and what you're facing and

what you're gonna do next.

918

00:40:48,612 --> 00:40:51,982

>> That's right, it is build

up on those experiences

919  
00:40:52,015 --> 00:40:53,250  
and there are really layers.

920  
00:40:53,283 --> 00:40:57,054  
I mean, although there  
was a big change,

921  
00:40:57,087 --> 00:41:00,090  
it wasn't like it had  
to throw away the old,

922  
00:41:00,123 --> 00:41:01,492  
throw away the old  
to get to the new.

923  
00:41:01,525 --> 00:41:03,927  
We actually added on.

924  
00:41:03,960 --> 00:41:06,363  
Very much like kind  
of natural evolution

925  
00:41:06,396 --> 00:41:08,665  
when you add on the layers  
and layers of things

926  
00:41:08,698 --> 00:41:11,835  
and the layers we added more,

927  
00:41:11,868 --> 00:41:14,404  
which really, the biggest  
change was not in our vehicles

928  
00:41:14,437 --> 00:41:17,207  
but it was in our  
brains because again,

929  
00:41:17,240 --> 00:41:22,079  
we were so used to the idea

if it's 8:05 a.m. right now,

930

00:41:22,112 --> 00:41:24,348

I know exactly what  
instruction my computer,

931

00:41:24,381 --> 00:41:26,283

my spacecraft is  
running on this computer

932

00:41:26,316 --> 00:41:27,818

millions of miles away.

933

00:41:27,851 --> 00:41:30,454

Now, it's kinda like  
it's, well in this case,

934

00:41:30,487 --> 00:41:33,423

10:30 in the morning  
on Mars time.

935

00:41:33,456 --> 00:41:35,759

It should be waking  
up about now,

936

00:41:35,792 --> 00:41:37,261

we'll send a list  
of things to do

937

00:41:37,294 --> 00:41:40,464

and I hope it gets it  
done this afternoon.

938

00:41:40,497 --> 00:41:42,366

And we would send the message.

939

00:41:42,399 --> 00:41:45,669

It's more like an email message  
with a list of things to do

940

00:41:45,702 --> 00:41:48,605

as opposed to a very  
prescribed script.

941

00:41:48,638 --> 00:41:50,007

And so, which is interesting

942

00:41:50,040 --> 00:41:51,308

because it's kind of creepy now.

943

00:41:51,341 --> 00:41:53,577

You don't really know if  
it's gonna get it done

944

00:41:53,610 --> 00:41:55,078

and so you have to think  
about what what happens,

945

00:41:55,111 --> 00:41:57,281

well, what happens if  
it runs out of energy

946

00:41:57,314 --> 00:41:59,750

halfway through the drive?

947

00:41:59,783 --> 00:42:00,717

What to do?

948

00:42:00,750 --> 00:42:02,286

Well, we gotta program that in.

949

00:42:02,319 --> 00:42:05,889

It's now fault protection  
has been morphed

950

00:42:05,922 --> 00:42:08,392

into kind of like  
the kind of things

951

00:42:08,425 --> 00:42:10,928

that you would do as a human  
being taking care of yourself

952

00:42:10,961 --> 00:42:12,396

and normal everyday.

953

00:42:12,429 --> 00:42:13,330

Is it really a fault that  
you ran out of energy

954

00:42:13,363 --> 00:42:14,598

because you drove too long?

955

00:42:14,631 --> 00:42:16,133

Not really.

956

00:42:16,166 --> 00:42:18,702

>> And when you say energy,  
we should really point out,

957

00:42:18,735 --> 00:42:20,437

I mean one of the  
fascinating things about this

958

00:42:20,470 --> 00:42:23,941

is how little power  
these things are run on.

959

00:42:23,974 --> 00:42:27,211

Cassini started out  
less than 800 watts

960

00:42:28,511 --> 00:42:31,081

and wound up 600 watts  
at the end of it,

961

00:42:31,114 --> 00:42:32,716

it's half a hair dryer.

962

00:42:32,749 --> 00:42:35,152

I always throw that fact in.

963

00:42:35,185 --> 00:42:37,788

And you were working  
with solar panels

964

00:42:37,821 --> 00:42:40,624

so if you ran out of energy  
because you took too much time,

965

00:42:40,657 --> 00:42:42,125

you had to stop.

966

00:42:42,158 --> 00:42:46,296

>> We did and in fact, if it  
goes dark for a few months

967

00:42:46,329 --> 00:42:48,899

because there's a  
dust storm raging,

968

00:42:48,932 --> 00:42:50,767

you're pretty much toast.

969

00:42:50,800 --> 00:42:53,470

Actually not toast because  
it's kind of chilly.

970

00:42:53,503 --> 00:42:55,505

[attendees laughing]

971

00:42:55,538 --> 00:42:56,673

So your vehicle is--

972

00:42:56,706 --> 00:42:57,641

>> Julie: You're deep freeze.

973

00:42:57,674 --> 00:42:58,909

>> You're kinda deep freeze.

974

00:42:58,942 --> 00:42:59,876

Well, good news is  
actually dust storms

975

00:42:59,909 --> 00:43:01,311

are not as cold as normally

976

00:43:01,344 --> 00:43:03,814

so this vehicle,  
I'm actually hopeful

977

00:43:03,847 --> 00:43:07,317

that opportunity will come  
back and please root for me

978

00:43:07,350 --> 00:43:09,553

but opportunity is not,

979

00:43:09,586 --> 00:43:11,955

it's not freezing  
cold but it's actually

980

00:43:11,988 --> 00:43:13,490

completely out of energy.

981

00:43:13,523 --> 00:43:15,158

There's virtually nothing,

982

00:43:15,191 --> 00:43:16,727

hardly anything left.

983

00:43:16,760 --> 00:43:18,695

Now, gradually, the  
lights been coming back,

984

00:43:18,728 --> 00:43:20,664

the sky is no  
longer pitch-black.

985

00:43:20,697 --> 00:43:21,932

It's got a little bit,

986

00:43:21,965 --> 00:43:23,433

it's got enough of a  
glow so the battery

987

00:43:23,466 --> 00:43:26,169

is charging up every day.

988

00:43:26,202 --> 00:43:27,671

>> And hopefully, the wind's  
blowing so get those dust up--

989

00:43:27,704 --> 00:43:29,039

>> Hopefully, yes, right.

990

00:43:29,072 --> 00:43:30,540

And there are expectations

991

00:43:30,573 --> 00:43:32,275

that the dust isn't really  
accumulating too thickly

992

00:43:32,308 --> 00:43:33,677

on the solar panels.

993

00:43:33,710 --> 00:43:35,078

But it is.

994

00:43:35,111 --> 00:43:37,814

I mean, and even big vehicles  
like Curiosity rover,

995

00:43:37,847 --> 00:43:41,785

the big one, one the size  
of a car, it only operates,

996

00:43:41,818 --> 00:43:44,921

it only gets about 100  
watts electricity every day.

997

00:43:44,954 --> 00:43:48,058

I mean 100 watts  
power all the time.

998

00:43:48,091 --> 00:43:50,227

That's like 2,400 because Mars

999

00:43:50,260 --> 00:43:52,930

has a 24 hour and 39 minute day.

1000

00:43:54,297 --> 00:43:56,700

Very convenient for  
operating on this planet.

1001

00:43:56,733 --> 00:43:58,468

>> Julie: It's not  
convenient because it's,

1002

00:43:58,501 --> 00:43:59,736

you've gotta--

1003

00:43:59,769 --> 00:44:01,271

>> Rob: We could sleep  
in 39 minutes every day.

1004

00:44:01,304 --> 00:44:03,240

I think it's great.

1005

00:44:03,273 --> 00:44:04,775

>> Well, guys, I hope  
your spacecraft

1006

00:44:04,808 --> 00:44:05,709  
never run out of power.

1007  
00:44:05,742 --> 00:44:06,910  
>> Thank you.

1008  
00:44:06,943 --> 00:44:08,378  
>> That's about all  
the time we have

1009  
00:44:08,411 --> 00:44:09,713  
for our first segment here I  
think it's a great place to end

1010  
00:44:09,746 --> 00:44:11,381  
so thank you both.

1011  
00:44:11,414 --> 00:44:12,649  
We have more in store.

1012  
00:44:12,682 --> 00:44:14,651  
So coming up after  
this brief video,

1013  
00:44:14,684 --> 00:44:16,219  
we'll be taking a look forward

1014  
00:44:16,252 --> 00:44:19,823  
into what's coming up in  
the future so stick around.

1015  
00:44:19,856 --> 00:44:23,093  
[attendees applauding]

1016  
00:44:23,126 --> 00:44:25,696  
[mellow music]

1017  
00:44:34,003 --> 00:44:36,740  
[exciting music]

1018

00:44:45,014 --> 00:44:47,317

>> We are inquisitive, we  
wanna understand things,

1019

00:44:47,350 --> 00:44:50,554

we wanna understand  
more about our place

1020

00:44:50,587 --> 00:44:54,992

in the galaxy and our place,  
really, in the universe.

1021

00:45:07,203 --> 00:45:10,107

>> NASA's always been the  
leader in space exploration.

1022

00:45:10,140 --> 00:45:12,809

In fact, NASA's been  
the first agency

1023

00:45:12,842 --> 00:45:15,779

to explore each and every  
one of the major bodies

1024

00:45:15,812 --> 00:45:17,581

in the solar system.

1025

00:45:17,614 --> 00:45:19,349

>> It used to be that  
we were completely bound

1026

00:45:19,382 --> 00:45:21,719

to the surface of the Earth.

1027

00:45:23,319 --> 00:45:25,255

Now, we actually have  
spacecraft that have orbited

1028

00:45:25,288 --> 00:45:26,523  
Mercury and Venus.

1029  
00:45:26,556 --> 00:45:27,958  
We've been around  
Jupiter and Saturn

1030  
00:45:27,991 --> 00:45:29,426  
and all the way to  
the outer planets,

1031  
00:45:29,459 --> 00:45:31,194  
all the way out to  
Pluto and beyond.

1032  
00:45:31,227 --> 00:45:32,696  
Think about that.

1033  
00:45:32,729 --> 00:45:35,432  
In 60 years, we went from  
just standing on the surface

1034  
00:45:35,465 --> 00:45:37,667  
underneath our  
atmosphere looking up

1035  
00:45:37,700 --> 00:45:40,637  
to actually visiting  
these places.

1036  
00:45:48,511 --> 00:45:50,814  
>> Human exploration  
is not Star Trek.

1037  
00:45:50,847 --> 00:45:53,750  
It's not go where no  
human has gone before.

1038  
00:45:53,783 --> 00:45:56,386  
Planetary scientists

actually go first.

1039

00:45:56,419 --> 00:45:58,722

They study the body, they  
study the environment,

1040

00:45:58,755 --> 00:46:01,825

they look at the risks,  
they look at the resources

1041

00:46:01,858 --> 00:46:06,463

and then human exploration  
with that knowledge moves out

1042

00:46:06,496 --> 00:46:11,067

leaving low Earth orbit, going  
the moon and then on to Mars.

1043

00:46:11,100 --> 00:46:13,170

>> Obviously, we wanna  
take humans to Mars.

1044

00:46:13,203 --> 00:46:16,173

Obviously, we want somebody  
walking on that surface

1045

00:46:16,206 --> 00:46:18,508

but our prime missions  
are helping us understand

1046

00:46:18,541 --> 00:46:20,443

more about Mars and  
helping us understand

1047

00:46:20,476 --> 00:46:22,445

how to create oxygen and  
helping us understand

1048

00:46:22,478 --> 00:46:24,414

about the atmosphere

and the wind

1049

00:46:24,447 --> 00:46:28,018

so that we can actually  
have a living life on Mars.

1050

00:46:28,051 --> 00:46:30,053

>> The areas that we  
are most interested in

1051

00:46:30,086 --> 00:46:31,955

where we're putting  
most of our resources

1052

00:46:31,988 --> 00:46:35,425

are the areas where there  
is a potential for life.

1053

00:46:35,458 --> 00:46:37,460

So when you think  
about Enceladus

1054

00:46:37,493 --> 00:46:38,662

which is a  
moon of Saturn

1055

00:46:38,695 --> 00:46:41,731

and you think about Europa  
which is a moon of Jupiter,

1056

00:46:41,764 --> 00:46:44,301

these are water worlds  
where we're talking about

1057

00:46:44,334 --> 00:46:47,804

entire oceans with ice  
shelves and ultimately,

1058

00:46:47,837 --> 00:46:50,807

the question is it possible

that we could find life

1059

00:46:50,840 --> 00:46:53,543

on those worlds that are  
moons of other planets

1060

00:46:53,576 --> 00:46:55,913

within our own solar system?

1061

00:47:03,453 --> 00:47:05,655

>> My job is to go  
look and use the tools

1062

00:47:05,688 --> 00:47:07,324

that NASA has provided

1063

00:47:07,357 --> 00:47:09,426

so that we can learn  
what's out there.

1064

00:47:09,459 --> 00:47:10,627

How does everything work?

1065

00:47:10,660 --> 00:47:13,063

The Sun, the Earth,  
the planets, the stars.

1066

00:47:13,096 --> 00:47:15,866

All of these things are  
space science for us.

1067

00:47:15,899 --> 00:47:19,369

Galaxies or clouds of stars,  
hundreds of billions of stars

1068

00:47:19,402 --> 00:47:21,238

are going away from  
us with a speed

1069

00:47:21,271 --> 00:47:23,240  
proportional to distance.

1070  
00:47:23,273 --> 00:47:24,674  
Well what made that happen?

1071  
00:47:24,707 --> 00:47:26,743  
You divide the speed  
into the distance,

1072  
00:47:26,776 --> 00:47:28,378  
you get the age of the universe.

1073  
00:47:28,411 --> 00:47:33,350  
So that was the first time we  
knew the universe had an age.

1074  
00:47:42,458 --> 00:47:43,960  
>> Questions like  
where do we come from

1075  
00:47:43,993 --> 00:47:46,930  
and how do we get here and  
the big one are we alone?

1076  
00:47:46,963 --> 00:47:48,531  
As much as we've learned  
about the cosmos,

1077  
00:47:48,564 --> 00:47:50,634  
there's still so much  
that we don't know

1078  
00:47:50,667 --> 00:47:52,469  
and that's why NASA  
build telescopes

1079  
00:47:52,502 --> 00:47:54,004  
to answer those big questions

1080  
00:47:54,037 --> 00:47:55,972  
that we haven't been  
able to answer yet.

1081  
00:47:56,005 --> 00:47:58,408  
>> We can do more than  
we've ever done before

1082  
00:47:58,441 --> 00:48:00,577  
because of capabilities  
that exist today.

1083  
00:48:00,610 --> 00:48:03,546  
So the next 60 years, I  
think is just gonna be

1084  
00:48:03,579 --> 00:48:07,017  
an exponential growth of our  
knowledge and understanding

1085  
00:48:07,050 --> 00:48:10,988  
which is really what NASA  
was created for 1958.

1086  
00:48:19,762 --> 00:48:23,333  
>> Well, let's shift our  
focus now to the future.

1087  
00:48:23,366 --> 00:48:24,801  
We're gonna spend a  
little time talking

1088  
00:48:24,834 --> 00:48:27,637  
about how our robotic  
spacecraft are likely to change

1089  
00:48:27,670 --> 00:48:29,339  
in the next couple of decades.

1090

00:48:29,372 --> 00:48:31,474

So joining us now are  
a couple of NASA people

1091

00:48:31,507 --> 00:48:32,909

who spend a lot of their time

1092

00:48:32,942 --> 00:48:36,012

thinking about  
future spacecraft.

1093

00:48:36,045 --> 00:48:38,515

Dr. Charles Norton, works  
for NASA Headquarters

1094

00:48:38,548 --> 00:48:41,084

advising the agency  
on small spacecraft

1095

00:48:41,117 --> 00:48:42,886

missions and strategy.

1096

00:48:42,919 --> 00:48:45,121

He's managed numerous  
SmallSat missions

1097

00:48:45,154 --> 00:48:48,658

and we'll be talking about  
SmallSats in just a few minutes.

1098

00:48:48,691 --> 00:48:52,529

And Dr. Anne Marinan who is a  
systems engineer here at JPL.

1099

00:48:52,562 --> 00:48:55,298

She works on what  
we call formulation

1100

00:48:55,331 --> 00:48:57,434

leading a team that

looks at the feasibility

1101

00:48:57,467 --> 00:48:59,502  
of new mission concepts.

1102

00:48:59,535 --> 00:49:01,538  
She's also working on a  
couple of SmallSat missions

1103

00:49:01,571 --> 00:49:03,940  
right now including one  
that's on its way to Mars

1104

00:49:03,973 --> 00:49:05,175  
which she'll tell us about.

1105

00:49:05,208 --> 00:49:09,279  
So guys, to get started,  
let's talk about what

1106

00:49:09,312 --> 00:49:12,082  
new sorts of environments

1107

00:49:12,115 --> 00:49:15,151  
we expect to be spending  
our spacecraft to.

1108

00:49:15,184 --> 00:49:20,090  
>> Yeah, so the first panel  
talked a lot about flying by

1109

00:49:20,123 --> 00:49:22,359  
a planet then orbiting a planet  
then landing on a planet.

1110

00:49:22,392 --> 00:49:24,194  
So now, a lot of people are  
talking about what happens

1111

00:49:24,227 --> 00:49:28,431  
if you go deeper, so inside  
caves or inside lava tubes

1112  
00:49:28,464 --> 00:49:32,168  
or under these giant ice  
sheets and into oceans

1113  
00:49:32,201 --> 00:49:36,206  
or flying around on planets or  
moons that have atmospheres.

1114  
00:49:36,239 --> 00:49:38,708  
So it's really, the next,

1115  
00:49:38,741 --> 00:49:41,845  
one new environment  
is like the next step

1116  
00:49:41,878 --> 00:49:45,281  
after just landing and  
roving around on a planet.

1117  
00:49:45,314 --> 00:49:47,183  
>> Exactly, and these  
environments

1118  
00:49:47,216 --> 00:49:48,184  
are really introducing

1119  
00:49:48,217 --> 00:49:50,620  
new types of challenges  
that we have to address

1120  
00:49:50,653 --> 00:49:52,889  
but what's exciting  
is these challenges

1121  
00:49:52,922 --> 00:49:54,591  
are driven by new

scientific opportunities

1122

00:49:54,624 --> 00:49:56,626

that we want to explore.

1123

00:49:58,027 --> 00:50:01,164

>> And so, one that excites  
me the most is crevices

1124

00:50:01,197 --> 00:50:03,366

and caves on the moon  
and things like that.

1125

00:50:03,399 --> 00:50:04,868

So climbing robots.

1126

00:50:04,901 --> 00:50:07,037

So we've got a video right now

1127

00:50:07,070 --> 00:50:11,041

that provides a great example  
of a type of environment

1128

00:50:11,074 --> 00:50:13,910

that we might send a spacecraft  
to and that's a comet.

1129

00:50:13,943 --> 00:50:17,280

So here's a video on  
the Hedgehog Rover.

1130

00:50:22,852 --> 00:50:23,753

>> Robert: Comets and asteroids

1131

00:50:23,786 --> 00:50:25,321

are very fascinating places.

1132

00:50:25,354 --> 00:50:27,057

They may contain building blocks

1133

00:50:27,090 --> 00:50:30,593  
or reminisce of the building  
blocks of the solar system.

1134

00:50:30,626 --> 00:50:31,828  
However, to explore,

1135

00:50:31,861 --> 00:50:33,863  
they present a unique  
set of challenges.

1136

00:50:33,896 --> 00:50:35,498  
There is the low  
gravity environment

1137

00:50:35,531 --> 00:50:37,267  
or microgravity as we call it.

1138

00:50:37,300 --> 00:50:38,902  
For example, a  
person here on Earth

1139

00:50:38,935 --> 00:50:40,603  
would weigh as  
little as a paperclip

1140

00:50:40,636 --> 00:50:42,138  
on the surface of a comet.

1141

00:50:42,171 --> 00:50:45,041  
So rover like Curiosity which  
is currently exploring Mars

1142

00:50:45,074 --> 00:50:46,976  
would actually only weigh  
a couple of kilograms.

1143

00:50:47,009 --> 00:50:49,179

It wouldn't be able to  
generate much traction

1144  
00:50:49,212 --> 00:50:51,514  
and in fact, as it  
turns its wheels,

1145  
00:50:51,547 --> 00:50:54,084  
it would probably just push  
itself away from the surface.

1146  
00:50:54,117 --> 00:50:56,186  
It's actually quite  
likely to end up rotating

1147  
00:50:56,219 --> 00:50:57,720  
and landing upside down,

1148  
00:50:57,753 --> 00:50:59,856  
at which point, it's end of  
the mission for the rover.

1149  
00:50:59,889 --> 00:51:01,324  
So we set together,  
JPL and Stanford

1150  
00:51:01,357 --> 00:51:04,060  
have been working on a totally  
different rover concept

1151  
00:51:04,093 --> 00:51:06,896  
that is well suited to these  
environments called Hedgehog.

1152  
00:51:06,929 --> 00:51:08,531  
Instead of rolling  
around on wheels,

1153  
00:51:08,564 --> 00:51:11,034  
the Hedgehog design actually

puts three flywheels

1154

00:51:11,067 --> 00:51:14,237  
on the inside of a cube by  
spinning these flywheels up

1155

00:51:14,270 --> 00:51:17,073  
very slowly and then very  
quickly applying a brake

1156

00:51:17,106 --> 00:51:19,375  
which transfers all the  
momentum from the flywheels,

1157

00:51:19,408 --> 00:51:23,947  
we're able to cause Hedgehog  
to either hop or tumble

1158

00:51:23,980 --> 00:51:25,949  
or perform small adjustments.

1159

00:51:25,982 --> 00:51:27,884  
We've done many  
tests here on Earth

1160

00:51:27,917 --> 00:51:29,953  
in gravity offloading test bits.

1161

00:51:29,986 --> 00:51:32,956  
Recently, we've flown  
two Hedgehog prototypes

1162

00:51:32,989 --> 00:51:34,324  
on a Zero-G aircraft.

1163

00:51:34,357 --> 00:51:36,025  
In these tests, we demonstrated

1164

00:51:36,058 --> 00:51:39,295

that we would be able to perform  
on a comet or an asteroid.

1165

00:51:39,328 --> 00:51:40,730

Hedgehog doesn't  
have a right way up.

1166

00:51:40,763 --> 00:51:42,565

Instead, it can tumble  
over the surface

1167

00:51:42,598 --> 00:51:45,135

and come to rest on  
any one of its faces

1168

00:51:45,168 --> 00:51:46,603

and still work perfectly.

1169

00:51:46,636 --> 00:51:47,904

The Rosetta mission  
has sent back

1170

00:51:47,937 --> 00:51:50,273

lots of very fascinating  
images from the surface

1171

00:51:50,306 --> 00:51:52,909

of Comet 67P and  
these images show us

1172

00:51:52,942 --> 00:51:54,511

some incredibly rugged terrain

1173

00:51:54,544 --> 00:51:57,046

including large sinkholes  
where a traditional rover

1174

00:51:57,079 --> 00:51:58,515

would get terribly stuck.

1175  
00:51:58,548 --> 00:52:00,250  
So we've even tested  
Hedgehog performing

1176  
00:52:00,283 --> 00:52:02,752  
a type of escape maneuver  
where it spins itself up

1177  
00:52:02,785 --> 00:52:04,854  
and does this  
tornado-like maneuver

1178  
00:52:04,887 --> 00:52:07,123  
where it can actually  
launch itself vertically

1179  
00:52:07,156 --> 00:52:08,592  
out of a sandpit.

1180  
00:52:10,526 --> 00:52:12,428  
In our future work, we're  
looking at increasingly

1181  
00:52:12,461 --> 00:52:14,364  
level autonomy giving  
the Hedgehog Rovers

1182  
00:52:14,397 --> 00:52:16,032  
the ability to think for himself

1183  
00:52:16,065 --> 00:52:17,934  
and to navigate from  
one point to another.

1184  
00:52:17,967 --> 00:52:19,669  
The Hedgehog Rover's  
ability to move around

1185  
00:52:19,702 --> 00:52:21,604

on the surface of  
comets and asteroids

1186  
00:52:21,637 --> 00:52:23,540  
could enable a wide  
range of applications

1187  
00:52:23,573 --> 00:52:25,642  
in science in the future.

1188  
00:52:28,144 --> 00:52:30,180  
>> Very cool concept.

1189  
00:52:30,213 --> 00:52:33,716  
So there are clearly lots  
of potential destinations

1190  
00:52:33,749 --> 00:52:35,451  
where you could send a robot

1191  
00:52:35,484 --> 00:52:37,687  
and even at a single  
body like the moon,

1192  
00:52:37,720 --> 00:52:39,255  
there are lots of  
places you could go

1193  
00:52:39,288 --> 00:52:40,790  
and things you could do.

1194  
00:52:40,823 --> 00:52:45,095  
So how do you determine where  
you actually need a spacecraft

1195  
00:52:46,529 --> 00:52:49,732  
to go and what capabilities  
it'll need when it gets there?

1196

00:52:49,765 --> 00:52:52,101

>> Right, well, the  
scientific community

1197

00:52:52,134 --> 00:52:55,004

has a very well-defined  
process that they use

1198

00:52:55,037 --> 00:52:58,608

to try to assess  
what's important,

1199

00:52:58,641 --> 00:53:01,511

how we should make decisions  
about where we want to go

1200

00:53:01,544 --> 00:53:06,416

and as a community, they  
prioritize what should be done.

1201

00:53:06,449 --> 00:53:08,885

And there are  
mechanisms that involve,

1202

00:53:08,918 --> 00:53:13,256

not just NASA scientists but  
also international partners.

1203

00:53:13,289 --> 00:53:17,961

And as part of that is really  
shown here with the Hedgehog.

1204

00:53:17,994 --> 00:53:20,830

It's a community which has  
a great desire to innovate.

1205

00:53:20,863 --> 00:53:22,999

So a lot of what people  
are thinking about

1206

00:53:23,032 --> 00:53:25,034

when they're looking at  
what are the new place

1207

00:53:25,067 --> 00:53:27,670

that we should go on new types  
of missions we should develop

1208

00:53:27,703 --> 00:53:30,707

are really focused  
on how can we bring

1209

00:53:30,740 --> 00:53:33,409

in our ingenuity  
forward in a way

1210

00:53:33,442 --> 00:53:35,578

to advance scientific objectives

1211

00:53:35,611 --> 00:53:37,580

that the community  
has agreed upon.

1212

00:53:37,613 --> 00:53:39,649

But once you do that,  
you have to figure out

1213

00:53:39,682 --> 00:53:41,184

how do we really make this work,

1214

00:53:41,217 --> 00:53:42,785

what type of studies  
so we have to do.

1215

00:53:42,818 --> 00:53:46,689

The trade-off, what's the best  
way of achieving these goals.

1216

00:53:46,722 --> 00:53:47,991

And I know Anne, you

spend a lot of time

1217

00:53:48,024 --> 00:53:49,492

thinking about that.

1218

00:53:49,525 --> 00:53:52,061

>> Yeah, so at formulation,  
we take these science answers

1219

00:53:52,094 --> 00:53:53,763

or questions that  
we want to answer

1220

00:53:53,796 --> 00:53:55,732

and figure out how  
we're gonna answer them.

1221

00:53:55,765 --> 00:53:59,035

So where do you have to go to  
answer the science question

1222

00:53:59,068 --> 00:54:00,536

like is there life on Mars?

1223

00:54:00,569 --> 00:54:02,572

And so obviously,  
you're going to Mars

1224

00:54:02,605 --> 00:54:04,807

and then what kinds  
of vehicle do you need

1225

00:54:04,840 --> 00:54:07,677

or depending on what kind of  
question you want to answer,

1226

00:54:07,710 --> 00:54:10,013

you choose what kind of  
measurements you want to make

1227

00:54:10,046 --> 00:54:11,948

and so then what kind  
of instruments you need

1228

00:54:11,981 --> 00:54:14,617

to take those measurements and  
then what does the spacecraft

1229

00:54:14,650 --> 00:54:17,754

that bringing these measurements  
to Mars have to look like.

1230

00:54:17,787 --> 00:54:18,888

And if you're landing  
or if you're going

1231

00:54:18,921 --> 00:54:20,490

into a new environment,

1232

00:54:20,523 --> 00:54:23,326

what new challenges does the  
spacecraft have to overcome

1233

00:54:23,359 --> 00:54:26,429

and what new capabilities  
that does that have to do?

1234

00:54:26,462 --> 00:54:28,364

Do we have the  
technology to do that?

1235

00:54:28,397 --> 00:54:31,367

And then if we don't,  
who needs to build it

1236

00:54:31,400 --> 00:54:34,671

and where are we gonna get it?

1237

00:54:34,704 --> 00:54:37,974

>> And so, there are a lot of these capabilities

1238  
00:54:38,007 --> 00:54:39,776  
that you're talking about are constantly

1239  
00:54:39,809 --> 00:54:42,912  
continuously in this cycle of development and testing

1240  
00:54:42,945 --> 00:54:45,181  
and there are new ones being developed today

1241  
00:54:45,214 --> 00:54:49,118  
such as robots that can climb, new types of instruments.

1242  
00:54:49,151 --> 00:54:52,288  
I'm sure Charles, there are a lot that are on the horizon

1243  
00:54:52,321 --> 00:54:53,589  
that you're interested in.

1244  
00:54:53,622 --> 00:54:56,993  
So one example that we have here in the room

1245  
00:54:57,026 --> 00:54:59,195  
of one of these exciting capabilities for the future

1246  
00:54:59,228 --> 00:55:01,531  
is powered flight on another planet

1247  
00:55:01,564 --> 00:55:02,899  
and I know it sounds

like science fiction

1248

00:55:02,932 --> 00:55:04,567

but it's a real thing.

1249

00:55:04,600 --> 00:55:08,805

This is the Mars Helicopter and  
as you'll see in this video,

1250

00:55:08,838 --> 00:55:11,874

it's slated to become reality  
in just a couple of years.

1251

00:55:11,907 --> 00:55:13,410

Let's take a look.

1252

00:55:14,910 --> 00:55:18,415

[dramatic exciting music]

1253

00:55:59,155 --> 00:56:01,391

>> Woman: 2200, 2400, 2600.

1254

00:56:03,859 --> 00:56:07,364

[dramatic exciting music]

1255

00:56:34,557 --> 00:56:36,526

>> Another wow.

1256

00:56:36,559 --> 00:56:37,760

That's something that certainly

1257

00:56:37,793 --> 00:56:38,895

would have seemed  
like science fiction

1258

00:56:38,928 --> 00:56:40,997

when NASA was  
founded 60 years ago.

1259

00:56:41,030 --> 00:56:44,667

The Mars Helicopter slated  
to fly to Mars in 2020

1260

00:56:44,700 --> 00:56:46,202

with the next NASA rover.

1261

00:56:46,235 --> 00:56:48,204

So let's change topics.

1262

00:56:48,237 --> 00:56:50,239

You both have done a  
significant amount of work

1263

00:56:50,272 --> 00:56:53,676

on what we call  
small spacecraft,

1264

00:56:53,709 --> 00:56:55,044

SmallSats and CubeSats.

1265

00:56:55,945 --> 00:56:57,413

Let's talk a bit about those.

1266

00:56:57,446 --> 00:57:00,516

So first of all, what are  
they and what kind of role

1267

00:57:00,549 --> 00:57:03,953

do you expect them to  
play going forward?

1268

00:57:03,986 --> 00:57:07,590

>> Yes, well, CubeSats, it's  
very similar to the name.

1269

00:57:07,623 --> 00:57:09,559

You could think of a small box

1270

00:57:09,592 --> 00:57:12,762

which is roughly four centimeters on a side.

1271

00:57:12,795 --> 00:57:16,966

They were developed primarily as ways for students to learn

1272

00:57:16,999 --> 00:57:20,636

how to develop and fly space missions.

1273

00:57:20,669 --> 00:57:23,906

But what has really happened over the last few years

1274

00:57:23,939 --> 00:57:27,143

is due to advances in consumer electronics,

1275

00:57:27,176 --> 00:57:29,445

advances in miniaturization,

1276

00:57:29,478 --> 00:57:31,314

people have been able to become very creative

1277

00:57:31,347 --> 00:57:34,016

with what you can do with this type of capability.

1278

00:57:34,049 --> 00:57:38,254

And by their very design, they're very amenable

1279

00:57:38,287 --> 00:57:40,990

to easy access to space and launch.

1280

00:57:41,023 --> 00:57:43,392

So you now have an  
incredible capability

1281

00:57:43,425 --> 00:57:45,828

to conceive of new missions,

1282

00:57:45,861 --> 00:57:48,231

conceive of new  
science experiments,

1283

00:57:48,264 --> 00:57:51,734

fit those capabilities  
into the small cubes

1284

00:57:51,767 --> 00:57:54,036

or conglomerations  
of these cubes

1285

00:57:54,069 --> 00:57:55,872

and make slightly  
larger systems,

1286

00:57:55,905 --> 00:57:57,573

get them to  
space quickly

1287

00:57:57,606 --> 00:58:01,110

and really just have  
an incredible ability

1288

00:58:02,278 --> 00:58:04,480

to think about what are  
the types of missions

1289

00:58:04,513 --> 00:58:06,816

that are uniquely  
enabled by these systems

1290

00:58:06,849 --> 00:58:10,786

that are not so easy  
to do with the large

1291  
00:58:10,819 --> 00:58:13,823  
spacecraft that we even  
see around in this room.

1292  
00:58:13,856 --> 00:58:16,859  
>> With the small missions,  
er, small spacecraft

1293  
00:58:16,892 --> 00:58:19,495  
and it's not just CubeSats,  
it's anything basically

1294  
00:58:19,528 --> 00:58:22,198  
under the size of a washing  
machine, we consider small.

1295  
00:58:22,231 --> 00:58:23,733  
>> That's right.

1296  
00:58:23,766 --> 00:58:25,935  
>> So the things you can do  
with these small satellites,

1297  
00:58:25,968 --> 00:58:30,172  
typically they're very  
focused like single mind

1298  
00:58:30,205 --> 00:58:32,775  
oriented kinds of spacecraft.

1299  
00:58:32,808 --> 00:58:35,077  
And so they're really  
good for very specific

1300  
00:58:35,110 --> 00:58:38,147  
technology demonstrations or  
flying something brand new

1301

00:58:38,180 --> 00:58:40,283

that could be used  
on a larger mission

1302

00:58:40,316 --> 00:58:43,419

where someone wants to  
use on a future mission

1303

00:58:43,452 --> 00:58:45,221

but they want to make  
sure it actually works

1304

00:58:45,254 --> 00:58:47,123

in space before they fly it.

1305

00:58:47,156 --> 00:58:50,626

So these are really good  
like test platforms in space

1306

00:58:50,659 --> 00:58:52,628

in a relevant  
environment, basically.

1307

00:58:52,661 --> 00:58:54,931

>> You're working on just  
such a mission right now.

1308

00:58:54,964 --> 00:58:56,232

>> I am, yes.

1309

00:58:56,265 --> 00:58:57,800

So this is,

1310

00:58:57,833 --> 00:59:00,269

it's a mini model of MarCO,

1311

00:59:00,302 --> 00:59:02,972

so MarCO stands

for Mars Cube One

1312

00:59:03,005 --> 00:59:04,507  
although there are two of them

1313

00:59:04,540 --> 00:59:06,075  
and they're on their  
way to Mars right now

1314

00:59:06,108 --> 00:59:08,010  
and it is a technology  
demonstration mission.

1315

00:59:08,043 --> 00:59:11,013  
There's no science  
payload on it.

1316

00:59:11,046 --> 00:59:13,015  
Instead, we're flying a  
bunch of new technologies

1317

00:59:13,048 --> 00:59:15,685  
that have never been  
flown in deep space before

1318

00:59:15,718 --> 00:59:17,587  
and one of them is  
a radio an antenna

1319

00:59:17,620 --> 00:59:19,589  
that were developed by  
JPL and one of the things

1320

00:59:19,622 --> 00:59:23,326  
we hope to demonstrate is a  
communications relay capability

1321

00:59:23,359 --> 00:59:25,661  
as the InSight lander  
which is supposed to land

1322

00:59:25,694 --> 00:59:29,231  
on Cyber Monday goes through,  
it's seven minutes of terror

1323

00:59:29,264 --> 00:59:32,602  
so we can get that data back  
to Earth as soon as possible.

1324

00:59:32,635 --> 00:59:34,537  
>> And Charles, you  
have an example here

1325

00:59:34,570 --> 00:59:36,606  
of how a SmallSat is  
also bringing another

1326

00:59:36,639 --> 00:59:38,774  
really cool new  
capability to the table.

1327

00:59:38,807 --> 00:59:40,042  
What's that?

1328

00:59:40,075 --> 00:59:42,812  
>> Exactly, I mean right  
over here is a CubeSat.

1329

00:59:42,845 --> 00:59:46,048  
It's called a 6U CubeSat  
because it's largely made

1330

00:59:46,081 --> 00:59:49,018  
of six of these units  
called RainCube.

1331

00:59:49,051 --> 00:59:51,954  
So it's a radar in a CubeSat.

1332

00:59:51,987 --> 00:59:55,825

And what's amazing here  
is it's a instrument

1333

00:59:55,858 --> 00:59:59,962

that could measure  
precipitation profiles

1334

00:59:59,995 --> 01:00:01,564

through Earth's atmosphere.

1335

01:00:01,597 --> 01:00:03,566

And what's really  
incredible about it

1336

01:00:03,599 --> 01:00:06,102

is that a number of key  
technologies report forward

1337

01:00:06,135 --> 01:00:08,004

to enable this capability

1338

01:00:08,037 --> 01:00:10,873

where many in the community  
thought you can never make

1339

01:00:10,906 --> 01:00:13,142

a radar this small.

1340

01:00:13,175 --> 01:00:16,545

You'll see this umbrella  
looking like structure

1341

01:00:16,578 --> 01:00:17,914

which is a mesh.

1342

01:00:19,214 --> 01:00:23,352

What it is actually is a  
Ka-band transmitter and receiver

1343

01:00:23,385 --> 01:00:26,022

so we can send radar pulses  
through the atmosphere

1344

01:00:26,055 --> 01:00:28,391

and through clouds,  
receive the signal back

1345

01:00:28,424 --> 01:00:31,661

and measure profiles  
of precipitation.

1346

01:00:31,694 --> 01:00:34,664

And in addition, there is a  
very sophisticated electronics

1347

01:00:34,697 --> 01:00:37,133

and algorithms within the box

1348

01:00:37,166 --> 01:00:40,136

that I allow you to do the  
processing to interpret

1349

01:00:40,169 --> 01:00:43,039

and turn that data into science.

1350

01:00:43,072 --> 01:00:45,307

And it's just an  
incredible capability

1351

01:00:45,340 --> 01:00:48,110

which was just launched  
a few weeks ago

1352

01:00:48,143 --> 01:00:51,514

and has just been  
returning data lately.

1353

01:00:51,547 --> 01:00:53,916

That's one of the important aspects these small missions,

1354

01:00:53,949 --> 01:00:55,418  
you can do things rapidly.

1355

01:00:55,451 --> 01:00:58,254  
>> And also, they've  
been able to miniaturize,

1356

01:00:58,287 --> 01:01:00,256  
a capability that you  
would expect to see

1357

01:01:00,289 --> 01:01:01,757  
on a much larger spacecraft.

1358

01:01:01,790 --> 01:01:03,859  
In the past, you had to  
have a big spacecraft

1359

01:01:03,892 --> 01:01:05,761  
if you wanted to  
send a radar, right?

1360

01:01:05,794 --> 01:01:08,297  
>> They would require  
large power system

1361

01:01:08,330 --> 01:01:10,666  
so you'd have much  
larger solar panels

1362

01:01:10,699 --> 01:01:12,601  
than the ones that you see here.

1363

01:01:12,634 --> 01:01:14,403  
Very large antennas.

1364

01:01:14,436 --> 01:01:17,039

And one of the benefits again  
of these smaller systems

1365

01:01:17,072 --> 01:01:19,041

is that you can  
deploy many of them.

1366

01:01:19,074 --> 01:01:21,911

So what we expect to do  
is to have constellations

1367

01:01:21,944 --> 01:01:25,414

of these systems where we  
could have very rapid revisit

1368

01:01:25,447 --> 01:01:29,118

and almost near real-time  
measurements of precipitation.

1369

01:01:29,151 --> 01:01:31,420

>> Cool, let's talk a  
bit about how spacecraft

1370

01:01:31,453 --> 01:01:33,456

will communicate  
in different ways.

1371

01:01:33,489 --> 01:01:36,425

We already touched  
on having SmallSats

1372

01:01:36,458 --> 01:01:38,027

could act as  
communications relays

1373

01:01:38,060 --> 01:01:41,130

but there's this other  
idea of using lasers

1374

01:01:41,163 --> 01:01:43,265  
which really interest me.

1375  
01:01:43,298 --> 01:01:45,401  
Instead of rate radio  
waves to communicate.

1376  
01:01:45,434 --> 01:01:46,902  
What's that all about?

1377  
01:01:46,935 --> 01:01:48,571  
>> So optical communication  
or laser communication.

1378  
01:01:48,604 --> 01:01:52,074  
And so, instead of using  
a radio, you use a laser

1379  
01:01:52,107 --> 01:01:53,976  
and send data over  
beams of light.

1380  
01:01:54,009 --> 01:01:55,478  
And so one of the  
advantages of that

1381  
01:01:55,511 --> 01:01:57,780  
is as radio propagates  
just naturally

1382  
01:01:57,813 --> 01:01:59,348  
through an environment  
or through space,

1383  
01:01:59,381 --> 01:02:02,051  
it expands a lot  
which is great for not

1384  
01:02:02,084 --> 01:02:04,386  
really having to control where

your spacecraft is pointing

1385

01:02:04,419 --> 01:02:06,689

because chances are  
if it's wide enough,

1386

01:02:06,722 --> 01:02:09,759

you're gonna get the Earth  
within the beam something.

1387

01:02:09,792 --> 01:02:12,428

For a laser, it's  
much more focused.

1388

01:02:12,461 --> 01:02:13,662

So while it's,

1389

01:02:13,695 --> 01:02:15,431

you have to point  
it a lot better,

1390

01:02:15,464 --> 01:02:19,602

you gain all that efficiency  
of having your entire beam

1391

01:02:19,635 --> 01:02:22,605

or at least most of  
your beam and compass.

1392

01:02:22,638 --> 01:02:23,773

>> Concentrated in the compass.

1393

01:02:23,806 --> 01:02:25,107

>> Yeah, concentrated  
on your receiver

1394

01:02:25,140 --> 01:02:26,542

because with the  
expanded signal,

1395

01:02:26,575 --> 01:02:28,911

you lose a lot of that power

1396

01:02:29,878 --> 01:02:31,413

propagated around it.

1397

01:02:31,446 --> 01:02:35,084

And so if you focus most of  
the beam on your receiver,

1398

01:02:35,117 --> 01:02:37,586

you can get more data  
back for the same power.

1399

01:02:37,619 --> 01:02:39,421

And because it's a  
different frequency,

1400

01:02:39,454 --> 01:02:41,023

it's a higher frequency  
than radio waves,

1401

01:02:41,056 --> 01:02:43,425

you can also send a  
lot more data through.

1402

01:02:43,458 --> 01:02:46,028

So in terms of  
like what is that?

1403

01:02:46,061 --> 01:02:48,030

It's more like  
ethernet or gigabit

1404

01:02:48,063 --> 01:02:50,166

kind of communications  
from space.

1405

01:02:50,199 --> 01:02:51,567

Right now, we're kind of limited

1406

01:02:51,600 --> 01:02:53,068  
to the megabit per second range.

1407

01:02:53,101 --> 01:02:54,970  
And we're talking about  
hundreds of megabits per second

1408

01:02:55,003 --> 01:02:59,441  
to gigabit so it really  
is like a broadband.

1409

01:02:59,474 --> 01:03:00,743  
>> Enabling capability really

1410

01:03:00,776 --> 01:03:02,511  
for future missions  
going forward.

1411

01:03:02,544 --> 01:03:05,614  
I mean we're developing much  
more sophisticated instruments

1412

01:03:05,647 --> 01:03:09,852  
to take much more data  
that do many more tasks

1413

01:03:09,885 --> 01:03:12,888  
and we have in the  
past and laser comm

1414

01:03:12,921 --> 01:03:15,524  
is absolutely going to be  
needed to take advantage

1415

01:03:15,557 --> 01:03:17,526  
of these capabilities.

1416

01:03:17,559 --> 01:03:20,129

>> Yeah, it's not just  
coming, it's here.

1417

01:03:20,162 --> 01:03:21,964

We've tried it out  
from the space station,

1418

01:03:21,997 --> 01:03:24,967

we've tested it out from the  
moon with the LADEE mission.

1419

01:03:25,000 --> 01:03:26,669

And we're now sending,

1420

01:03:26,702 --> 01:03:28,704

we're planning to  
send one to deep space

1421

01:03:28,737 --> 01:03:30,673

with an upcoming  
mission called Psyche

1422

01:03:30,706 --> 01:03:34,577

that's going to an  
asteroid so very cool.

1423

01:03:34,610 --> 01:03:38,080

Yeah, let's talk about  
another cool change

1424

01:03:38,113 --> 01:03:41,383

coming to spacecraft in the  
future and that is 3D printing.

1425

01:03:41,416 --> 01:03:44,753

So 3D printed parts  
and whole structures.

1426

01:03:44,786 --> 01:03:46,589

How do you think  
that 3D printing

1427

01:03:46,622 --> 01:03:50,559

is likely to play a role in  
spacecraft going forward?

1428

01:03:50,592 --> 01:03:53,462

>> Yeah, again, I think it's  
another essential capability.

1429

01:03:53,495 --> 01:03:56,799

I mean with 3D printing,  
you really have the ability

1430

01:03:56,832 --> 01:04:00,502

to customize very exactly  
the types of structures

1431

01:04:00,535 --> 01:04:03,572

and components and  
even in some cases,

1432

01:04:03,605 --> 01:04:06,208

full systems that you  
would like to develop.

1433

01:04:06,241 --> 01:04:10,512

And an important aspect of 3D  
printing is another capability

1434

01:04:10,545 --> 01:04:12,481

called additive manufacturing

1435

01:04:12,514 --> 01:04:16,085

where as you are printing  
these parts in these devices,

1436

01:04:16,118 --> 01:04:18,954

you can actually add more

sophisticated components

1437

01:04:18,987 --> 01:04:21,591  
into the system and essentially

1438

01:04:22,658 --> 01:04:25,160  
be able to replicate  
very rapidly

1439

01:04:25,193 --> 01:04:28,230  
and they're very  
repeatable fashion,

1440

01:04:28,263 --> 01:04:31,467  
the types of instruments  
or spacecraft of the future

1441

01:04:31,500 --> 01:04:33,969  
that we would definitely  
want to develop

1442

01:04:34,002 --> 01:04:36,639  
and it's also happening now.

1443

01:04:36,672 --> 01:04:38,507  
>> Well, we have a  
couple of examples here

1444

01:04:38,540 --> 01:04:41,010  
that I thought were pretty cool.

1445

01:04:41,043 --> 01:04:46,048  
This is a 3D printed piece  
of what we call space fabric.

1446

01:04:47,182 --> 01:04:48,450  
This is all one  
single piece here.

1447

01:04:48,483 --> 01:04:51,987

It looks like chain  
mail but it's an example

1448

01:04:52,020 --> 01:04:54,990

of something you could 3D  
print an exterior covering

1449

01:04:55,023 --> 01:04:57,326

for a spacecraft out  
of a single piece

1450

01:04:57,359 --> 01:04:59,461

and then there's  
another one here.

1451

01:04:59,494 --> 01:05:00,796

This is a whole,

1452

01:05:00,829 --> 01:05:03,232

an example of printing  
a whole structure,

1453

01:05:03,265 --> 01:05:04,633

a whole spacecraft structure.

1454

01:05:04,666 --> 01:05:07,436

I think this is meant  
to be a hard lander

1455

01:05:07,469 --> 01:05:09,872

for the surface of an  
icy moon like Europa

1456

01:05:09,905 --> 01:05:14,443

but the idea being, I  
guess instead of making

1457

01:05:14,476 --> 01:05:16,812

multiple pieces and having

to put them together,

1458

01:05:16,845 --> 01:05:20,215

you would print the  
entire structure

1459

01:05:20,248 --> 01:05:21,850

and then you could  
add stuff on to it.

1460

01:05:21,883 --> 01:05:23,319

And you had a cool,

1461

01:05:23,352 --> 01:05:24,720

there was a cool  
footnote about that

1462

01:05:24,753 --> 01:05:26,956

where you mentioned  
printing other stuff like--

1463

01:05:26,989 --> 01:05:29,625

>> Yeah, so instead of  
just having a structure

1464

01:05:29,658 --> 01:05:31,126

with additive manufacturing

1465

01:05:31,159 --> 01:05:33,929

and being able to combine  
different kinds of materials

1466

01:05:33,962 --> 01:05:36,799

into one structure  
like simultaneously,

1467

01:05:36,832 --> 01:05:39,368

you could build circuit  
boards into this structure.

1468

01:05:39,401 --> 01:05:42,571

And so instead of having  
to integrate cards,

1469

01:05:42,604 --> 01:05:44,540

you could be much  
more volume efficient

1470

01:05:44,573 --> 01:05:46,742

which is a huge thing for  
sending things to space

1471

01:05:46,775 --> 01:05:50,212

and actually build in  
electronics components

1472

01:05:50,245 --> 01:05:53,949

and circuits and instruments  
inside the structure itself.

1473

01:05:53,982 --> 01:05:57,987

So you could kind of print  
an entire spacecraft.

1474

01:05:59,154 --> 01:06:00,255

>> In one piece,

1475

01:06:00,288 --> 01:06:01,190

in one go.

>> You could print

1476

01:06:01,223 --> 01:06:02,358

an entire spacecraft, yeah.

1477

01:06:02,391 --> 01:06:03,759

>> So this, I  
guess that's where,

1478

01:06:03,792 --> 01:06:07,096

your jobs are going to  
robots, Rob and Julie, sorry.

1479  
01:06:07,129 --> 01:06:09,298  
[laughing]

1480  
01:06:09,331 --> 01:06:12,201  
So it sounds like  
from a lot of things

1481  
01:06:12,234 --> 01:06:14,136  
we're talking about  
tonight that our robots

1482  
01:06:14,169 --> 01:06:16,839  
are gonna need increasing  
levels of autonomy

1483  
01:06:16,872 --> 01:06:19,708  
to do some of the things  
we're gonna be asking of them.

1484  
01:06:19,741 --> 01:06:21,643  
So are they gonna  
keep getting smarter?

1485  
01:06:21,676 --> 01:06:23,345  
How smart do we need them to be?

1486  
01:06:23,378 --> 01:06:25,047  
Is there a sweet spot?

1487  
01:06:25,080 --> 01:06:26,582  
>> Oh, they're going  
to keep getting smarter

1488  
01:06:26,615 --> 01:06:28,851  
and we need them they  
get much smarter.

1489

01:06:28,884 --> 01:06:30,185

That's just the reality.

1490

01:06:30,218 --> 01:06:32,488

I mean, as we talked  
about even earlier

1491

01:06:32,521 --> 01:06:34,323

in the earlier session,

1492

01:06:34,356 --> 01:06:37,059

a lot of the missions  
are developed today

1493

01:06:37,092 --> 01:06:40,796

are very much programmed  
and planned in advance.

1494

01:06:40,829 --> 01:06:43,198

We know what to do,  
we know what to expect

1495

01:06:43,231 --> 01:06:46,168

and even as we learn, we can  
give the some flexibility

1496

01:06:46,201 --> 01:06:47,703

to what will happen.

1497

01:06:47,736 --> 01:06:49,571

But if we think about  
the missions you wanna do

1498

01:06:49,604 --> 01:06:50,839

in the future.

1499

01:06:50,872 --> 01:06:53,642

If we want to look at  
interstellar missions,

1500

01:06:53,675 --> 01:06:55,377

if we want to look at  
missions in environments

1501

01:06:55,410 --> 01:06:58,047

where we don't completely  
understand where we're going

1502

01:06:58,080 --> 01:06:59,548

and what we expect to see,

1503

01:06:59,581 --> 01:07:01,316

we're going to  
require the spacecraft

1504

01:07:01,349 --> 01:07:05,587

to do much more intelligent  
thinking on its own

1505

01:07:05,620 --> 01:07:10,059

and autonomy and  
information system advances

1506

01:07:10,092 --> 01:07:14,196

are going to be essential  
to enabling that.

1507

01:07:14,229 --> 01:07:17,699

And I foresee there would  
be great discoveries

1508

01:07:17,732 --> 01:07:19,368

that will be  
produced as a result

1509

01:07:19,401 --> 01:07:21,170

of the capability of  
that kind different.

1510

01:07:21,203 --> 01:07:22,404

>> And it's putting a  
different spin on it.

1511

01:07:22,437 --> 01:07:24,306

The idea of being  
able to reconfigure

1512

01:07:24,339 --> 01:07:26,208

your spacecraft internally,

1513

01:07:26,241 --> 01:07:27,376

like be able to reprogram it.

1514

01:07:27,409 --> 01:07:29,011

So instead of using,

1515

01:07:29,044 --> 01:07:33,282

instead of using like a radio  
for just for communications,

1516

01:07:33,315 --> 01:07:34,883

what if could do signs out of it

1517

01:07:34,916 --> 01:07:37,419

or tune it to a slightly  
different frequency

1518

01:07:37,452 --> 01:07:38,921

so I can make a  
different measurement.

1519

01:07:38,954 --> 01:07:43,959

This idea of having a much more  
malleable internal structure

1520

01:07:45,127 --> 01:07:46,061

of the spacecraft that  
as you'd make more,

1521

01:07:46,094 --> 01:07:47,629  
as you make new discoveries,

1522

01:07:47,662 --> 01:07:49,231  
you can make  
different measurements

1523

01:07:49,264 --> 01:07:53,235  
and have it learn and  
evolve based on what you see

1524

01:07:53,268 --> 01:07:54,470  
in the environment.

1525

01:07:54,503 --> 01:07:55,637  
>> Yeah, I mean, as  
even some thought,

1526

01:07:55,670 --> 01:07:57,239  
again, turning  
back to 3D printing

1527

01:07:57,272 --> 01:07:59,908  
and additive manufacturing  
that you may embed

1528

01:07:59,941 --> 01:08:04,947  
in the spacecraft design itself  
a capability for self-repair

1529

01:08:06,348 --> 01:08:08,650  
if you're an environment  
where you cannot actually

1530

01:08:08,683 --> 01:08:10,285  
either retrieve the spacecraft

1531

01:08:10,318 --> 01:08:13,222

or have certain types  
of fault tolerance

1532  
01:08:13,255 --> 01:08:14,490  
that would be amenable

1533  
01:08:14,523 --> 01:08:17,693  
to certain types of  
hardware failures.

1534  
01:08:17,726 --> 01:08:20,762  
>> We're about out of time  
so I'd like to wrap up.

1535  
01:08:20,795 --> 01:08:22,097  
I'd like to ask you this.

1536  
01:08:22,130 --> 01:08:24,233  
Are there new developments  
on the horizon

1537  
01:08:24,266 --> 01:08:25,701  
that when you guys  
think about them,

1538  
01:08:25,734 --> 01:08:28,604  
they really get you  
excited for the future?

1539  
01:08:28,637 --> 01:08:29,972  
>> Yeah, so the thing  
that really excites me

1540  
01:08:30,005 --> 01:08:31,540  
is it's less of a technology

1541  
01:08:31,573 --> 01:08:33,108  
and more of kind  
of a paradigm shift

1542

01:08:33,141 --> 01:08:36,178

with these small satellites  
and it's easy access to space

1543

01:08:36,211 --> 01:08:39,348

and the accessibility of space  
in general for not just NASA

1544

01:08:39,381 --> 01:08:41,350

but the entire global community.

1545

01:08:41,383 --> 01:08:43,785

You see university students

1546

01:08:43,818 --> 01:08:46,755

and the early career  
people like me

1547

01:08:46,788 --> 01:08:50,692

being able to build these  
satellites in a year or less

1548

01:08:50,725 --> 01:08:53,829

and learn at the very  
beginning of their career

1549

01:08:53,862 --> 01:08:56,732

how difficult it is to  
launch things into space

1550

01:08:56,765 --> 01:08:58,133

and actually be able to,

1551

01:08:58,166 --> 01:09:00,736

like in grad school, I launched  
and was able to operate

1552

01:09:00,769 --> 01:09:02,404

a satellite in space

1553

01:09:02,437 --> 01:09:04,840

and so there's this whole  
new generation of engineers

1554

01:09:04,873 --> 01:09:06,875

who have this  
hands-on experience

1555

01:09:06,908 --> 01:09:08,744

and has flown  
spacecraft

1556

01:09:08,777 --> 01:09:11,246

that we're building  
the new ones.

1557

01:09:11,279 --> 01:09:14,883

So it's so different from  
how it was done before

1558

01:09:14,916 --> 01:09:17,286

and I mean I'm very  
excited about it.

1559

01:09:17,319 --> 01:09:19,454

>> Yeah, and for those of us  
that are a little less early

1560

01:09:19,487 --> 01:09:21,490

in their career like me.

1561

01:09:23,692 --> 01:09:27,229

The truth of the matter  
is I'm used to seeing

1562

01:09:27,262 --> 01:09:30,832

and working on submissions  
where we were really limited

1563

01:09:30,865 --> 01:09:32,668

by the lift capacity  
of the rockets

1564

01:09:32,701 --> 01:09:34,703

and we are building  
bigger rockets

1565

01:09:34,736 --> 01:09:38,040

but the idea was that we would  
build one large spacecraft

1566

01:09:38,073 --> 01:09:39,641

and maybe it had to  
make a measurement

1567

01:09:39,674 --> 01:09:42,110

that required a large  
deployable system.

1568

01:09:42,143 --> 01:09:44,479

What I see going  
forward is the ability

1569

01:09:44,512 --> 01:09:49,084

of using many spacecraft that  
are smaller, cooperatively

1570

01:09:49,117 --> 01:09:52,988

which can be used in an  
in space assembly sense

1571

01:09:53,021 --> 01:09:55,657

where we could make  
very, very large systems

1572

01:09:55,690 --> 01:09:57,726

that could make new  
types of measurements

1573

01:09:57,759 --> 01:10:02,097

that are just not capable  
to launch from the rockets

1574

01:10:03,198 --> 01:10:05,400

that we have in  
development right now.

1575

01:10:05,433 --> 01:10:07,603

And if you think  
about the resilience

1576

01:10:07,636 --> 01:10:10,472

and the robustness that  
can come from those systems

1577

01:10:10,505 --> 01:10:11,673

where if there is a failure

1578

01:10:11,706 --> 01:10:13,609

or something you  
need to replace,

1579

01:10:13,642 --> 01:10:17,713

you can simply replace  
that one section of it

1580

01:10:17,746 --> 01:10:19,214

through another launch.

1581

01:10:19,247 --> 01:10:21,850

It's just incredible  
to think about

1582

01:10:21,883 --> 01:10:23,418

what the scientific  
community could conceive of

1583

01:10:23,451 --> 01:10:25,687

with the capability  
of that kind.

1584  
01:10:25,720 --> 01:10:26,955  
>> Absolutely fantastic.

1585  
01:10:26,988 --> 01:10:29,091  
Well, I think that's  
a good place to end.

1586  
01:10:29,124 --> 01:10:32,060  
Well, remember, when it comes  
to the role of the robots,

1587  
01:10:32,093 --> 01:10:35,030  
they're an extension of  
us and with their help,

1588  
01:10:35,063 --> 01:10:37,966  
just imagine what we can  
accomplish in the next 60 years.

1589  
01:10:37,999 --> 01:10:39,868  
So thank you to all of  
our panelists tonight

1590  
01:10:39,901 --> 01:10:42,371  
and thanks to all of  
you for joining us.

1591  
01:10:42,404 --> 01:10:45,741  
Remember, you can find out  
more about how NASA Explorers

1592  
01:10:45,774 --> 01:10:46,742  
at [nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov).

1593  
01:10:47,709 --> 01:10:49,211  
Thanks so much for being here.

1594  
01:10:49,244 --> 01:10:52,448  
[attendees applauding]

1595  
01:11:10,332 --> 01:11:13,669  
Okay, and we'll go to  
set up for Q and A here

1596  
01:11:13,702 --> 01:11:15,537  
in just a second and  
we'll take your questions.

1597  
01:11:15,570 --> 01:11:19,875  
So there's a microphone in  
the center of the aisle.

1598  
01:11:19,908 --> 01:11:21,844  
Please step up to that.

1599  
01:11:22,977 --> 01:11:24,046  
>> Man: Preston, you're  
going to the lectern.

1600  
01:11:24,079 --> 01:11:25,414  
>> Preston: Yup.

1601  
01:11:43,231 --> 01:11:46,502  
[attendees chattering]

1602  
01:11:47,535 --> 01:11:49,405  
>> Rob: Yup, thank you.

1603  
01:11:52,807 --> 01:11:56,011  
[attendees chattering]

1604  
01:11:56,878 --> 01:12:00,082  
[panelists chattering]

1605  
01:12:02,183 --> 01:12:05,687

[panelists laughing]

1606

01:12:05,720 --> 01:12:09,858

>> Anne: Oh, yeah,  
the present, I got it.

1607

01:12:09,891 --> 01:12:13,128

[panelists chattering]

1608

01:12:17,365 --> 01:12:19,167

>> Rob: I keep  
wondering about this.

1609

01:12:19,200 --> 01:12:21,136

>> Okay, it looks like  
we're getting some questions

1610

01:12:21,169 --> 01:12:22,604

queued up here.

1611

01:12:22,637 --> 01:12:24,506

I'm glad you guys have some  
good ones ready for us.

1612

01:12:24,539 --> 01:12:26,541

We'll also be taking some  
questions from the folks

1613

01:12:26,574 --> 01:12:29,678

watching live online  
on YouTube and Facebook

1614

01:12:29,711 --> 01:12:33,782

and let everybody join  
the conversation here, so.

1615

01:12:36,084 --> 01:12:37,920

If you guys are ready.

1616

01:12:39,921 --> 01:12:40,922  
We'll take our first question.

1617  
01:12:40,955 --> 01:12:41,790  
Hi, there.

1618  
01:12:42,690 --> 01:12:44,760  
>> Hi, I was wondering if,

1619  
01:12:46,127 --> 01:12:47,362  
is this on?

1620  
01:12:47,395 --> 01:12:50,132  
Okay, I was wondering  
if there's a potential

1621  
01:12:50,165 --> 01:12:54,770  
for virtual reality integration  
for the Mars Helicopter

1622  
01:12:56,271 --> 01:13:00,909  
because I feel like maybe if  
you are able to at your age

1623  
01:13:02,177 --> 01:13:05,881  
be able to have a spacecraft,  
then maybe anyone,

1624  
01:13:07,282 --> 01:13:10,919  
anywhere in the world can  
be part of the process.

1625  
01:13:14,422 --> 01:13:15,857  
>> Is that for me?

1626  
01:13:15,890 --> 01:13:17,159  
>> Anyone of us?

1627  
01:13:18,059 --> 01:13:19,628

>> I'd be happy to try.

1628

01:13:19,661 --> 01:13:22,431

So the VR experience,  
you can do.

1629

01:13:23,865 --> 01:13:25,534

I think, we've been trying  
to do this for example,

1630

01:13:25,567 --> 01:13:27,903

our rovers collect

1631

01:13:27,936 --> 01:13:30,239

a high-resolution  
stereo data imagery

1632

01:13:31,639 --> 01:13:34,910

and from this stereo  
pairs, we can reconstruct

1633

01:13:34,943 --> 01:13:38,313

the shape of the surface  
and here on Earth,

1634

01:13:38,346 --> 01:13:42,751

we can either don 3D  
goggles and look around

1635

01:13:42,784 --> 01:13:45,454

and kind of walk around  
as if you're on Mars.

1636

01:13:45,487 --> 01:13:49,858

Or just even look and  
play with it with one eye

1637

01:13:49,891 --> 01:13:52,828

on a normal computer screen.

1638

01:13:52,861 --> 01:13:56,565

But the helicopter, it  
has the same problem

1639

01:13:56,598 --> 01:13:57,833

we've almost all of our stuff

1640

01:13:57,866 --> 01:14:00,936

is that the whole  
helicopter flight

1641

01:14:00,969 --> 01:14:03,538

is over in just a few minutes

1642

01:14:03,571 --> 01:14:06,508

and then the imagery  
we do get back

1643

01:14:06,541 --> 01:14:08,877

and not a lot of it's video,

1644

01:14:08,910 --> 01:14:11,112

it takes a while for  
that to come back

1645

01:14:11,145 --> 01:14:13,415

and so it's not an  
immersive environment

1646

01:14:13,448 --> 01:14:14,916

when it's happening.

1647

01:14:14,949 --> 01:14:18,720

Now, in the other hand,  
you can do what you said.

1648

01:14:18,753 --> 01:14:22,924

By visualizing in advance,  
we can create models of it

1649

01:14:22,957 --> 01:14:24,192  
from the  
three-dimensional terrain.

1650

01:14:24,225 --> 01:14:27,195  
We can imagine it  
and have the computer

1651

01:14:27,228 --> 01:14:30,332  
generate a prediction  
of the flight

1652

01:14:30,365 --> 01:14:31,800  
that we've designed for it

1653

01:14:31,833 --> 01:14:35,003  
that might be planned for  
tomorrow and see how it goes.

1654

01:14:35,036 --> 01:14:36,771  
Just like we do when  
we drive the rover.

1655

01:14:36,804 --> 01:14:38,773  
We actually drive it in advance,

1656

01:14:38,806 --> 01:14:41,676  
kinda like you're figuring  
out where you want it to go

1657

01:14:41,709 --> 01:14:46,081  
and see it in 3D and then  
the things that we see

1658

01:14:46,114 --> 01:14:48,617  
become the very instructions  
we send to the vehicle

1659

01:14:48,650 --> 01:14:52,120  
the next morning and order  
the helicopter the next day.

1660  
01:14:52,153 --> 01:14:54,623  
So it's close but  
it doesn't have

1661  
01:14:54,656 --> 01:14:56,491  
that kind of intuitive reaction.

1662  
01:14:56,524 --> 01:14:58,627  
After the fact or  
even before the fact,

1663  
01:14:58,660 --> 01:15:00,195  
we could share that information

1664  
01:15:00,228 --> 01:15:03,031  
and so you could actually  
see what that flight was,

1665  
01:15:03,064 --> 01:15:04,666  
either what it look like or  
what it's going to look like

1666  
01:15:04,699 --> 01:15:08,537  
through a simulated  
flight of the helicopter.

1667  
01:15:08,570 --> 01:15:09,671  
Does that make sense?

1668  
01:15:09,704 --> 01:15:11,172  
So, yeah.

1669  
01:15:11,205 --> 01:15:15,510  
And remarkably, there are  
apps so you can do it today,

1670

01:15:15,543 --> 01:15:16,745

you can do it today.

1671

01:15:16,778 --> 01:15:17,979

You can actually go

look and see the 3D

1672

01:15:18,012 --> 01:15:20,282

and see what's going on on Mars.

1673

01:15:20,315 --> 01:15:21,816

It's really cool.

1674

01:15:21,849 --> 01:15:23,585

>> Julie: On other planets too.

1675

01:15:23,618 --> 01:15:25,120

>> Rob: On other

planets, Cassini?

1676

01:15:25,153 --> 01:15:26,588

>> Julie: Yeah.

1677

01:15:26,621 --> 01:15:28,523

>> Rob: Yeah, oh, you could fly

through the rings of Saturn.

1678

01:15:28,556 --> 01:15:32,127

>> The first Eric de

Young going over Venus.

1679

01:15:34,162 --> 01:15:36,164

[chuckles]

1680

01:15:36,197 --> 01:15:36,998

>> Preston: Thanks a lot.

1681

01:15:37,031 --> 01:15:38,867

>> You're welcome.

1682

01:15:38,900 --> 01:15:42,404

>> Hi, so I'm wondering  
in the coming years

1683

01:15:43,605 --> 01:15:45,407

for robotics at NASA,

1684

01:15:45,440 --> 01:15:48,310

will robots like  
have a broader role

1685

01:15:48,343 --> 01:15:49,744

in addition to just exploring?

1686

01:15:49,777 --> 01:15:53,448

So maybe like have construction  
robots land on Mars

1687

01:15:53,481 --> 01:15:54,883

and start building  
a little house

1688

01:15:54,916 --> 01:15:57,052

so that when humans get  
there, there's like something,

1689

01:15:57,085 --> 01:15:59,754

there's a place to live.

1690

01:15:59,787 --> 01:16:02,357

So is that like a possibility

1691

01:16:02,390 --> 01:16:06,528

or do you see that as  
something robotics at NASA

1692

01:16:06,561 --> 01:16:08,029

can take in the future?

1693

01:16:08,062 --> 01:16:11,566

>> It's on the future half  
of the table here, I guess.

1694

01:16:11,599 --> 01:16:13,101

>> I mean I don't  
make NASA policy

1695

01:16:13,134 --> 01:16:16,838

but I mean that's definitely  
a role that robots could do

1696

01:16:16,871 --> 01:16:18,540

and would be well suited to.

1697

01:16:18,573 --> 01:16:22,644

Instead of sending people  
to have to build their own

1698

01:16:22,677 --> 01:16:24,879

habitats for them,  
send exploring,

1699

01:16:24,912 --> 01:16:27,215

kind of the same way that  
there were pathfinders

1700

01:16:27,248 --> 01:16:30,452

to the moon to Mars, kind of  
understanding the environment

1701

01:16:30,485 --> 01:16:32,887

in preparation for  
a human mission,

1702

01:16:32,920 --> 01:16:35,256

it would make sense to  
do something like that

1703

01:16:35,289 --> 01:16:36,825

where a robot would  
go ahead of time

1704

01:16:36,858 --> 01:16:39,828

and kind of set the stage and  
put a lot of things in motion

1705

01:16:39,861 --> 01:16:42,163

so by the time the  
humans got there,

1706

01:16:42,196 --> 01:16:44,699

there is an infrastructure  
already in place.

1707

01:16:44,732 --> 01:16:47,435

>> Yeah, we have some aspects  
of that happening now.

1708

01:16:47,468 --> 01:16:52,140

There are missions that are  
going to launch with the SLS

1709

01:16:53,307 --> 01:16:56,378

in a couple of years  
which their whole goal

1710

01:16:56,411 --> 01:16:59,547

is to address some of these  
strategic knowledge gaps

1711

01:16:59,580 --> 01:17:02,784

that will pave the way  
for human exploration.

1712

01:17:02,817 --> 01:17:06,388

For example, looking for  
resources and consumables

1713

01:17:06,421 --> 01:17:07,822  
in the lunar environment.

1714

01:17:07,855 --> 01:17:11,026  
And you could imagine  
that going forward

1715

01:17:11,059 --> 01:17:14,229  
as other capabilities  
are developed

1716

01:17:14,262 --> 01:17:18,066  
such as a lunar gateway  
and other systems

1717

01:17:18,099 --> 01:17:20,468  
that you would want  
to have the capability

1718

01:17:20,501 --> 01:17:22,804  
to have robots  
interact with humans

1719

01:17:22,837 --> 01:17:26,241  
and to provide those  
types of environments

1720

01:17:26,274 --> 01:17:28,243  
in a way that would  
be beneficial.

1721

01:17:28,276 --> 01:17:30,111  
>> And in fact, the  
design reference missions,

1722

01:17:30,144 --> 01:17:33,148  
the human design  
reference missions

1723

01:17:33,181 --> 01:17:34,883

that NASA's been studying

1724

01:17:34,916 --> 01:17:39,521

have a robotically controlled  
system landing in advance

1725

01:17:40,722 --> 01:17:44,059

before humans get there  
where that actually does

1726

01:17:44,092 --> 01:17:45,527

in situ resource utilization

1727

01:17:45,560 --> 01:17:48,029

where it actually processes  
the atmosphere of Mars,

1728

01:17:48,062 --> 01:17:51,332

takes the C from the O<sub>2</sub>  
of the CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere

1729

01:17:51,365 --> 01:17:52,834

and creates oxygen.

1730

01:17:52,867 --> 01:17:56,905

And so there are ways of  
doing that robotically.

1731

01:17:56,938 --> 01:17:59,908

It doesn't actually look  
like an R2-D2 kind of rover

1732

01:17:59,941 --> 01:18:01,376

vehicle doing it.

1733

01:18:01,409 --> 01:18:02,844

It was like a machine  
that's just sitting there

1734

01:18:02,877 --> 01:18:04,446  
going to [imitating clicking].

1735

01:18:04,479 --> 01:18:06,181  
Doing that work  
and processing it

1736

01:18:06,214 --> 01:18:08,883  
but when the  
astronauts get there,

1737

01:18:08,916 --> 01:18:10,485  
they will have  
this resource there

1738

01:18:10,518 --> 01:18:14,756  
already prepared and ready for  
them to use on their mission.

1739

01:18:14,789 --> 01:18:17,325  
>> So do you see robots doing  
more kind of manipulation

1740

01:18:17,358 --> 01:18:18,793  
of space in the future?

1741

01:18:18,826 --> 01:18:21,963  
So like pushing asteroids around  
or like drilling into moons

1742

01:18:21,996 --> 01:18:22,997  
and things like that?

1743

01:18:23,030 --> 01:18:23,832  
>> Rob: Sure.

1744

01:18:25,533 --> 01:18:24,699  
>> Yeah.

1745

01:18:25,566 --> 01:18:26,367

>> Yes.

1746

01:18:26,400 --> 01:18:27,202

>> Yeah.

1747

01:18:27,235 --> 01:18:28,670

>> It could do it.

1748

01:18:30,104 --> 01:18:32,373

>> Something I'm curious  
about as you're talking about

1749

01:18:32,406 --> 01:18:36,077

how earlier craft would  
use stars for navigation

1750

01:18:36,110 --> 01:18:37,612

but also they didn't really have

1751

01:18:37,645 --> 01:18:39,781

digital cameras or computers,

1752

01:18:39,814 --> 01:18:42,417

so how could they see  
around and figure out

1753

01:18:42,450 --> 01:18:45,253

enough about  
navigation with stars

1754

01:18:45,286 --> 01:18:48,957

that actually use and see any  
information from the stars?

1755

01:18:48,990 --> 01:18:51,960

>> So what did  
what they did was,

1756

01:18:51,993 --> 01:18:56,431  
like the Voyager, has a tracker  
that's looks at Canopus star

1757

01:18:56,464 --> 01:18:58,600  
which is a bright southern star

1758

01:18:58,633 --> 01:19:03,572  
and if the vehicle starts  
drifting away from it like this,

1759

01:19:05,072 --> 01:19:07,942  
the sensor will say hey, the  
star's moving to the left.

1760

01:19:07,975 --> 01:19:11,412  
Oh, so it basically has to  
either use its reaction wheel

1761

01:19:11,445 --> 01:19:14,749  
or its thrusters to go to  
[clicking] push it back in.

1762

01:19:14,782 --> 01:19:16,251  
The rover does,

1763

01:19:16,284 --> 01:19:18,753  
I mean the vehicle doesn't  
really know its orientation.

1764

01:19:18,786 --> 01:19:23,358  
You can't ask it but it  
has this simple behavior

1765

01:19:23,391 --> 01:19:26,027  
that effectively puts it in  
the right orientation in space.

1766

01:19:26,060 --> 01:19:29,664  
Later on Galileo and then  
Cassini, we added the capability

1767  
01:19:29,697 --> 01:19:31,166  
where the vehicle actually says,

1768  
01:19:31,199 --> 01:19:33,701  
hmm, I know those stars.

1769  
01:19:33,734 --> 01:19:36,004  
I recognize that,  
I have a star map.

1770  
01:19:36,037 --> 01:19:38,706  
And so they actually keep a  
star map and they go, yeah,

1771  
01:19:38,739 --> 01:19:40,008  
I know where I am.

1772  
01:19:40,041 --> 01:19:41,242  
>> They do now.

1773  
01:19:41,275 --> 01:19:44,279  
There are cameras  
but even like 1989,

1774  
01:19:45,780 --> 01:19:48,617  
Magellan used  
basically a sextant.

1775  
01:19:50,184 --> 01:19:51,786  
We went out and  
looked at one star

1776  
01:19:51,819 --> 01:19:54,055  
and then we looked  
at another star

1777

01:19:54,088 --> 01:19:57,458  
and navigated like  
the ancient mariners.

1778

01:19:57,491 --> 01:20:01,997  
They were comparing them  
with the brightness of a star

1779

01:20:03,464 --> 01:20:07,268  
and then every once in a while,  
it would swallow a bad star

1780

01:20:07,301 --> 01:20:08,102  
because it would get a--

1781

01:20:10,305 --> 01:20:08,937  
>> A lot.

1782

01:20:10,338 --> 01:20:13,975  
But yeah, the newer ones  
are star scanners now.

1783

01:20:14,008 --> 01:20:17,045  
And if you know you're gonna  
blind the star scanner,

1784

01:20:17,078 --> 01:20:20,515  
or yeah, like with bright  
objects like the sun,

1785

01:20:20,548 --> 01:20:23,685  
you need to tell it to stop  
and go on gyros for a while.

1786

01:20:23,718 --> 01:20:26,521  
>> Right, and these vehicles  
know their orientation

1787

01:20:26,554 --> 01:20:30,124

but it wasn't until Cassini  
that we actually had a vehicle

1788  
01:20:30,157 --> 01:20:31,893  
that actually had,

1789  
01:20:31,926 --> 01:20:35,730  
it knew where it was around  
the Sun and where Earth was.

1790  
01:20:35,763 --> 01:20:39,000  
So that was a very  
gradual development.

1791  
01:20:40,468 --> 01:20:44,005  
So we've gradually added more  
intelligence to the vehicle

1792  
01:20:44,038 --> 01:20:48,209  
so, more self-awareness of  
its own state and where it is

1793  
01:20:48,242 --> 01:20:49,410  
in the solar system.

1794  
01:20:49,443 --> 01:20:50,678  
>> Attendee: So  
these early sensors

1795  
01:20:50,711 --> 01:20:51,646  
we're almost like  
a digital camera

1796  
01:20:51,679 --> 01:20:52,680  
with just a few little pixels?

1797  
01:20:52,713 --> 01:20:53,648  
>> They are.  
>> They are.

1798

01:20:53,681 --> 01:20:54,849

>> They are digital cameras.

1799

01:20:54,882 --> 01:20:55,817

They see these--

>> They take pictures.

1800

01:20:55,850 --> 01:20:57,852

>> That run through pictures

1801

01:20:57,885 --> 01:20:59,854

and then they'll look  
for the brightest stars

1802

01:20:59,887 --> 01:21:02,190

in the star map and  
they'll match up

1803

01:21:02,223 --> 01:21:04,292

three best or five best.

1804

01:21:04,325 --> 01:21:08,796

Juno does that, as it's going  
even as its rotating today,

1805

01:21:08,829 --> 01:21:11,266

that's the way it  
knows where it's at.

1806

01:21:11,299 --> 01:21:12,767

>> Anne: Now, they make  
them that are these big.

1807

01:21:12,800 --> 01:21:14,002

>> Exactly.

1808

01:21:14,035 --> 01:21:16,004

They're both champing  
at the bit to say that.

1809

01:21:16,037 --> 01:21:16,871

>> To say it, I know.

1810

01:21:16,904 --> 01:21:18,339

[laughing]

1811

01:21:18,372 --> 01:21:19,941

>> If you look at the spacecraft over here,

1812

01:21:19,974 --> 01:21:22,744

that whole integrated avionic system,

1813

01:21:22,777 --> 01:21:26,080

star tracker, the maps, the computer, the telescope,

1814

01:21:26,113 --> 01:21:30,452

the baffles, all of it is about the size of my fist.

1815

01:21:31,419 --> 01:21:34,122

Now, inside that space craft.

1816

01:21:34,155 --> 01:21:35,056

>> Preston: Thanks for your question.

1817

01:21:35,089 --> 01:21:37,492

>> Attendee: Well, thank you.

1818

01:21:37,525 --> 01:21:40,495

>> Hi, so I know that every rover

1819

01:21:40,528 --> 01:21:45,066

has to be specifically

suited for its environment.

1820

01:21:45,099 --> 01:21:48,202

Like when you're  
building a rover,

1821

01:21:48,235 --> 01:21:51,406

do you go off one design  
and then just modify it

1822

01:21:51,439 --> 01:21:52,840

to suit it for the environment

1823

01:21:52,873 --> 01:21:55,310

or you just completely  
start from scratch?

1824

01:21:55,343 --> 01:21:56,210

>> Julie: Oh.

1825

01:21:56,243 --> 01:21:57,045

>> Rob: Great question.

1826

01:21:57,078 --> 01:21:58,813

>> Mariner, Mariner.

1827

01:21:58,846 --> 01:22:01,082

We try not to  
start from scratch.

1828

01:22:01,115 --> 01:22:03,017

[laughing]

1829

01:22:03,050 --> 01:22:04,719

So one of the things

1830

01:22:06,020 --> 01:22:08,589

that we've never been  
able to do completely

1831

01:22:08,622 --> 01:22:11,292  
at JPL, we tried to do it  
with a Mariner program,

1832

01:22:11,325 --> 01:22:14,829  
we tried to do it  
was Mariner Mark.

1833

01:22:14,862 --> 01:22:18,666  
Cassini was supposed  
to be Mariner Mark III.

1834

01:22:18,699 --> 01:22:19,600  
>> Rob: Yeah.

1835

01:22:19,633 --> 01:22:21,636  
>> And we were getting two?

1836

01:22:21,669 --> 01:22:23,405  
Two, Mariner Mark II.

1837

01:22:24,772 --> 01:22:26,007  
And it's gonna be one of--  
>> As was mentioned,

1838

01:22:26,040 --> 01:22:27,675  
we have our historian  
here at the audience.

1839

01:22:27,708 --> 01:22:29,677  
>> Yey, we knew Eric  
would come through.

1840

01:22:29,710 --> 01:22:31,846  
>> Charles: It's all  
being fact checked.

1841

01:22:31,879 --> 01:22:34,615

>> But it's sort of like,

1842

01:22:34,648 --> 01:22:37,418

I always compare it to trying  
to build a street trail bike.

1843

01:22:37,451 --> 01:22:40,254

You either got a street biker  
or you got a trail bike.

1844

01:22:40,287 --> 01:22:42,290

You haven't got a  
street trail bike.

1845

01:22:42,323 --> 01:22:46,661

So they are adaptable but only  
within certain constraints.

1846

01:22:46,694 --> 01:22:48,563

>> Yeah, and almost  
all our vehicles,

1847

01:22:48,596 --> 01:22:53,401

you'll recognize the previous  
heritage inside the next one.

1848

01:22:53,434 --> 01:22:55,503

And NASA doesn't like  
us to start over.

1849

01:22:55,536 --> 01:22:56,704

It's expensive.

1850

01:22:56,737 --> 01:22:58,539

So we try to adapt.

1851

01:22:58,572 --> 01:22:59,507

>> Julie: We reuse parts.

1852

01:22:59,540 --> 01:23:00,742  
>> Ee try to use it, yeah, yeah.

1853  
01:23:00,775 --> 01:23:02,777  
>> Yeah, Cassini flew  
Voyager thrusters

1854  
01:23:02,810 --> 01:23:06,180  
that were already 20  
years old at that point.

1855  
01:23:06,213 --> 01:23:08,817  
And they were Apollo a vintage,

1856  
01:23:10,017 --> 01:23:12,120  
the main engine was  
an Apollo thruster.

1857  
01:23:12,153 --> 01:23:13,621  
>> Rob: That's right.

1858  
01:23:13,654 --> 01:23:14,555  
>> Preston: The thruster  
that they had on the side

1859  
01:23:14,588 --> 01:23:15,790  
of the Lunar Module.

1860  
01:23:15,823 --> 01:23:17,325  
>> On the Lunar Module,  
right, that's correct.

1861  
01:23:17,358 --> 01:23:18,259  
>> Preston: So let's,

1862  
01:23:18,292 --> 01:23:19,527  
did you have a follow up?

1863  
01:23:19,560 --> 01:23:20,528

>> Attendee: No.

1864

01:23:20,561 --> 01:23:21,763

>> Okay, cool.

>> Thank you.

1865

01:23:21,796 --> 01:23:22,697

>> Well, let's--

>> Great question.

1866

01:23:22,730 --> 01:23:24,198

>> Thank you for your question.

1867

01:23:24,231 --> 01:23:27,568

Let's take a question from  
social media, actually.

1868

01:23:27,601 --> 01:23:29,637

I'm actually gonna  
combine this into a twofer

1869

01:23:29,670 --> 01:23:31,072

because I think they're related.

1870

01:23:31,105 --> 01:23:34,175

So this will be Temple  
Cave from YouTube who asks,

1871

01:23:34,208 --> 01:23:36,110

will future robotic missions

1872

01:23:36,143 --> 01:23:40,014

have equipment to detect  
evidence of microbial life

1873

01:23:40,047 --> 01:23:42,717

and then that's that goes  
along with David's question

1874

01:23:42,750 --> 01:23:44,419  
from Facebook where he asks,

1875

01:23:44,452 --> 01:23:47,655  
how do you ensure that you don't  
spread Earth-based bacteria

1876

01:23:47,688 --> 01:23:48,790  
to other worlds?

1877

01:23:48,823 --> 01:23:50,558  
They are connected, right?

1878

01:23:50,591 --> 01:23:51,592  
>> Yeah.  
>> Yeah.

1879

01:23:51,625 --> 01:23:53,128  
>> Julie: Sort of.

1880

01:23:54,962 --> 01:23:56,097  
>> You wanna go first?  
>> I'll go first.

1881

01:23:56,130 --> 01:23:58,399  
Well, my wife happens  
to work at JPL.

1882

01:23:58,432 --> 01:24:01,769  
She's in a group called the  
Planetary Protection group.

1883

01:24:01,802 --> 01:24:04,839  
And in fact, that is their role,

1884

01:24:04,872 --> 01:24:09,077  
to ensure that we do  
not forward contaminate

1885

01:24:09,110 --> 01:24:11,746

places where we  
might land spacecraft

1886

01:24:11,779 --> 01:24:14,148

and also backward  
contaminate the Earth

1887

01:24:14,181 --> 01:24:16,984

from spacecraft that  
we would return.

1888

01:24:17,017 --> 01:24:19,053

And it's taken very seriously.

1889

01:24:19,086 --> 01:24:22,290

Actually, I think going  
back to the Apollo days,

1890

01:24:22,323 --> 01:24:25,059

there were rules  
that NASA established

1891

01:24:25,092 --> 01:24:27,395

for a planetary protection.

1892

01:24:27,428 --> 01:24:30,698

>> Even the early Ranger  
spacecraft at JPL built,

1893

01:24:30,731 --> 01:24:33,167

that was supposed  
to go to the moon

1894

01:24:33,200 --> 01:24:35,937

and we aimed it multiple  
times that there was

1895

01:24:35,970 --> 01:24:37,639

right on this stage,

1896

01:24:38,839 --> 01:24:41,309

six of them failed  
one after another,

1897

01:24:41,342 --> 01:24:44,145

month month after month  
for different reasons.

1898

01:24:44,178 --> 01:24:45,646

We finally got there,  
but one of the reasons

1899

01:24:45,679 --> 01:24:47,081

we thought that made them fail

1900

01:24:47,114 --> 01:24:49,350

because we were cooking  
the whole spacecraft

1901

01:24:49,383 --> 01:24:51,486

at 125 degrees centigrade

1902

01:24:53,521 --> 01:24:55,389

and there a lot of people  
felt that was actually

1903

01:24:55,422 --> 01:24:58,526

just too much for poor  
electronics to take.

1904

01:24:58,559 --> 01:25:00,228

But we've killed the bugs.

1905

01:25:00,261 --> 01:25:02,964

[all laughing]

1906

01:25:02,997 --> 01:25:08,069

The other part of the question

is about detection of life.

1907

01:25:09,236 --> 01:25:10,671

It's really, really  
hard for us to detect.

1908

01:25:10,704 --> 01:25:14,308

I mean it's hard to  
detect life on this planet

1909

01:25:14,341 --> 01:25:17,745

unless it's sitting  
the room waving at you.

1910

01:25:17,778 --> 01:25:20,448

If it's microscopic,  
it's very, very tiny,

1911

01:25:20,481 --> 01:25:24,685

it's very, very hard to deduce  
especially if it's not alive

1912

01:25:24,718 --> 01:25:28,723

whether or not is actually  
or truly an organic structure

1913

01:25:28,756 --> 01:25:31,692

or some sort of  
remnant other structure

1914

01:25:31,725 --> 01:25:35,463

from some geomorphic phenomena  
that actually occurs.

1915

01:25:35,496 --> 01:25:39,133

In fact, there was an asteroid  
that came back in '84.

1916

01:25:39,166 --> 01:25:44,172

I mean actually it was found

in the in Antarctica, ALH84001.

1917

01:25:45,639 --> 01:25:48,709

It landed on Earth  
about 13,000 years ago.

1918

01:25:48,742 --> 01:25:50,745

It had been in  
orbit around the Sun

1919

01:25:50,778 --> 01:25:53,314

for several million years  
and had been kicked off,

1920

01:25:53,347 --> 01:25:55,383

before that, it was  
kicked off of Mars

1921

01:25:55,416 --> 01:25:58,052

and so if people thought  
hey, there's life there.

1922

01:25:58,085 --> 01:26:01,656

And it turned out,  
it's very complex

1923

01:26:01,689 --> 01:26:06,728

quasi-organic structures that  
were very reminiscent of life

1924

01:26:08,162 --> 01:26:09,964

but even then, we struggled  
in labs here to figure it out.

1925

01:26:09,997 --> 01:26:13,267

So we don't really have  
a way yet to detect life

1926

01:26:13,300 --> 01:26:15,770

on another planet very easily

1927

01:26:15,803 --> 01:26:17,171  
other than what Viking try to do

1928

01:26:17,204 --> 01:26:19,540  
where you actually  
pours goop in there

1929

01:26:19,573 --> 01:26:22,610  
and you'd kind of hope that  
this stuff, you give it food.

1930

01:26:22,643 --> 01:26:23,544  
>> Charles: Ferment.

1931

01:26:23,577 --> 01:26:24,478  
>> And it starts to ferment.

1932

01:26:24,511 --> 01:26:26,714  
And you go, what's that smell?

1933

01:26:26,747 --> 01:26:30,585  
And so yeah, so it's  
very difficult to detect.

1934

01:26:31,685 --> 01:26:33,221  
>> Cool, go ahead.

1935

01:26:33,254 --> 01:26:34,189  
>> Yeah, hi.

1936

01:26:35,789 --> 01:26:37,225  
I had a question.

1937

01:26:37,258 --> 01:26:40,762  
I was wondering whether  
or not the remote.

1938

01:26:42,663 --> 01:26:43,498

Remote.

1939

01:26:45,132 --> 01:26:47,702

I have mental block, I'm sorry.

1940

01:26:47,735 --> 01:26:52,740

The remote manipulator system  
will increase its function

1941

01:26:53,841 --> 01:26:56,044

beyond that of  
grappler, assembly,

1942

01:26:57,945 --> 01:27:01,716

anchoring the spaceman that  
are doing the space work

1943

01:27:01,749 --> 01:27:03,384

like the astronauts.

1944

01:27:04,551 --> 01:27:05,920

>> Preston: Are  
you asking, maybe,

1945

01:27:05,953 --> 01:27:08,389

are we going to see  
additional capabilities

1946

01:27:08,422 --> 01:27:10,558

beyond the basic moving around?

1947

01:27:10,591 --> 01:27:11,492

>> Attendee: Yes.

1948

01:27:11,525 --> 01:27:12,994

>> I thinks there's this idea,

1949

01:27:13,027 --> 01:27:17,432

there's Robonaut and then  
there are a variety of other

1950  
01:27:18,799 --> 01:27:20,167  
systems on the space station.

1951  
01:27:20,200 --> 01:27:22,336  
>> So it's very, very  
dependent on the application.

1952  
01:27:22,369 --> 01:27:24,805  
They're not making generic ones.

1953  
01:27:24,838 --> 01:27:29,277  
For example, our robotic arms  
and our rovers, for example,

1954  
01:27:29,310 --> 01:27:31,012  
are getting bigger and  
bigger and heavier.

1955  
01:27:31,045 --> 01:27:33,514  
Mostly, because we're adding  
more tools into the arm

1956  
01:27:33,547 --> 01:27:35,449  
and hope the rover  
is gonna go clunk.

1957  
01:27:35,482 --> 01:27:36,917  
It's so heavy.

1958  
01:27:36,950 --> 01:27:38,319  
Big chunk of stuff.

1959  
01:27:38,352 --> 01:27:41,389  
We've added science instruments  
and all sorts of things

1960

01:27:41,422 --> 01:27:43,157  
are being bolt at the  
end of these robotic arms

1961  
01:27:43,190 --> 01:27:44,725  
but they're just the same,

1962  
01:27:44,758 --> 01:27:47,528  
conceptually the same multi  
degree of freedom robotic arms

1963  
01:27:47,561 --> 01:27:51,766  
that you see in robots that  
you can buy in catalogs

1964  
01:27:51,799 --> 01:27:54,302  
here on this planet,  
architecturally.

1965  
01:27:54,335 --> 01:27:58,506  
But really, so the application  
of the end effector

1966  
01:27:59,907 --> 01:28:01,342  
is really dependent on what  
it is you want it to do

1967  
01:28:01,375 --> 01:28:04,012  
for a living and so in our case,

1968  
01:28:05,312 --> 01:28:07,148  
the one that's being  
built right now

1969  
01:28:07,181 --> 01:28:09,717  
and just a few  
hundred feet from here

1970  
01:28:09,750 --> 01:28:12,286  
will be integrated

into our clean room

1971

01:28:12,319 --> 01:28:14,522  
for the Mars 2020 mission.

1972

01:28:14,555 --> 01:28:18,393  
The hand of this robotic  
arm is about this big

1973

01:28:19,593 --> 01:28:21,562  
and it's just chock  
full of instruments,

1974

01:28:21,595 --> 01:28:25,166  
a coring drill system,  
a dust removal tool.

1975

01:28:27,301 --> 01:28:30,905  
You see blowing air on the  
dust or remove dust on rocks.

1976

01:28:30,938 --> 01:28:32,239  
It's got sensors, got cameras,

1977

01:28:32,272 --> 01:28:34,275  
it's just chock full of stuff.

1978

01:28:34,308 --> 01:28:38,279  
So I would say it's very  
dependent what it is

1979

01:28:38,312 --> 01:28:40,047  
the problem that's  
being trying to,

1980

01:28:40,080 --> 01:28:41,482  
being solved.

1981

01:28:41,515 --> 01:28:42,416

>> Attendee: Thank you.

1982

01:28:42,449 --> 01:28:44,285

>> Preston: Thank you.

1983

01:28:47,721 --> 01:28:52,327

>> Hi, so I've heard that  
Mars is called Earth's sister.

1984

01:28:54,561 --> 01:28:57,798

Like because of its  
almost the size.

1985

01:28:57,831 --> 01:29:00,901

Do you think that since  
it's almost the same size

1986

01:29:00,934 --> 01:29:05,773

that it may have a good enough  
atmosphere to sustain life?

1987

01:29:10,544 --> 01:29:12,680

>> It's a distant sister.

1988

01:29:12,713 --> 01:29:14,715

It's a distant sister.

1989

01:29:14,748 --> 01:29:15,616

>> Julie: An old one.

1990

01:29:15,649 --> 01:29:16,817

>> Yeah, an old sister.

1991

01:29:16,850 --> 01:29:18,085

A very old sister.

>> A very old sister.

1992

01:29:18,118 --> 01:29:21,322

>> So Mars has an

atmosphere only 1%

1993

01:29:21,355 --> 01:29:23,724  
of the thickness of our planet.

1994

01:29:23,757 --> 01:29:25,259  
So it'd be the same,

1995

01:29:25,292 --> 01:29:29,630  
if you were to somehow go up  
130,000 feet above sea level

1996

01:29:31,165 --> 01:29:33,834  
which is many times  
higher than Mount Everest,

1997

01:29:33,867 --> 01:29:35,669  
that's how thin the air is.

1998

01:29:35,702 --> 01:29:37,304  
And guess what, it's not oxygen.

1999

01:29:37,337 --> 01:29:38,506  
Why?

2000

01:29:38,539 --> 01:29:40,040  
Because there's no  
plants to make oxygen.

2001

01:29:40,073 --> 01:29:41,375  
So it's just the carbon dioxide.

2002

01:29:41,408 --> 01:29:43,244  
So the interesting is, well,

2003

01:29:43,277 --> 01:29:45,546  
could Mars eventually have life?

2004

01:29:45,579 --> 01:29:47,047  
I mean with atmosphere.

2005  
01:29:47,080 --> 01:29:49,583  
Certainly, there's plenty  
of evidence that it did

2006  
01:29:49,616 --> 01:29:53,854  
have a substantial atmosphere  
billions of years ago

2007  
01:29:53,887 --> 01:29:57,091  
but we think today, I  
mean certainly not today,

2008  
01:29:57,124 --> 01:30:01,629  
you need a spacesuit and  
a warm jacket and air

2009  
01:30:01,662 --> 01:30:05,232  
and make sure you  
bring thick-soled shoes

2010  
01:30:05,265 --> 01:30:09,170  
because our wheels get torn  
to shreds and so you got to,

2011  
01:30:09,203 --> 01:30:11,305  
there's sharp rocks.

2012  
01:30:11,338 --> 01:30:14,575  
So Mars, it's not  
that hospitable today

2013  
01:30:16,643 --> 01:30:20,247  
but we could make  
it so in certain way

2014  
01:30:20,280 --> 01:30:21,549  
so you can bring our

atmosphere with us,

2015

01:30:21,582 --> 01:30:24,185

we can live under dome  
cities or dome towns

2016

01:30:24,218 --> 01:30:25,920

so we can actually  
do that on Mars.

2017

01:30:25,953 --> 01:30:28,055

So it could be a friendly  
place and the best thing,

2018

01:30:28,088 --> 01:30:30,758

the only weigh 1/3 as much.

2019

01:30:30,791 --> 01:30:33,327

So you'll be able to jump in  
some great basketball hoops,

2020

01:30:33,360 --> 01:30:35,095

I can tell you.

2021

01:30:35,128 --> 01:30:36,964

>> All right, well I'm afraid  
that's all the time we have

2022

01:30:36,997 --> 01:30:38,466

for tonight.

2023

01:30:38,499 --> 01:30:42,570

So thank you to everybody  
who brought their questions.

2024

01:30:42,603 --> 01:30:44,238

Thank you to everybody  
for watching online

2025

01:30:44,271 --> 01:30:45,773  
and for submitting  
your questions.

2026  
01:30:45,806 --> 01:30:47,575  
Sorry, we didn't have  
time to get to everybody

2027  
01:30:47,608 --> 01:30:50,177  
but we always love  
having you guys here

2028  
01:30:50,210 --> 01:30:52,313  
and we're so glad  
that you joined us.

2029  
01:30:52,346 --> 01:30:53,380  
Have a good night.