



1  
00:00:00,967 --> 00:00:02,235  
Reflections on NASA's  
Kepler Mission

2  
00:00:02,268 --> 00:00:04,237  
[ ■ ]

3  
00:00:05,871 --> 00:00:07,006  
Nick Gautier: Ever since  
I was a little kid

4  
00:00:07,039 --> 00:00:10,276  
I was interested in space. I  
wanted to be an astronaut.

5  
00:00:10,309 --> 00:00:11,944  
You know, things like  
the glasses

6  
00:00:11,977 --> 00:00:13,780  
meant that I  
couldn't do that.

7  
00:00:13,813 --> 00:00:16,816  
So I became an  
astronomer instead.

8  
00:00:16,849 --> 00:00:19,585  
And when the opportunity to  
join the Kepler project -

9  
00:00:19,618 --> 00:00:19,617  
to discover  
<i> planets</i>

10  
00:00:19,618 --> 00:00:22,755  
<i> new</i>  
around other stars -

11

00:00:22,788 --> 00:00:25,091

I grabbed that immediately.

I really wanted to do that.

12

00:00:25,124 --> 00:00:28,027

It's been a really

inspiring mission

13

00:00:28,060 --> 00:00:32,865

because we got to discover

all of this new stuff

14

00:00:32,898 --> 00:00:35,134

that nobody ever saw before.

15

00:00:35,167 --> 00:00:37,403

Leslie Livesay: There was no

buzz about exoplanets

16

00:00:37,436 --> 00:00:39,505

when we really launched Kepler.

17

00:00:39,538 --> 00:00:42,909

But after its results

I think everyone,

18

00:00:42,942 --> 00:00:45,545

if you had to stop and talk

to someone on the street,

19

00:00:45,578 --> 00:00:47,647

they'll be able to talk to you

about what they think

20

00:00:47,680 --> 00:00:49,482

about exoplanets and

what they know.

21

00:00:49,515 --> 00:00:51,150

And that's a real difference.

22

00:00:51,183 --> 00:00:53,386

Riley Duren: Most people, in fact everybody I worked with

23

00:00:53,419 --> 00:00:54,787

on the project,

24

00:00:54,820 --> 00:00:56,722

this wasn't a 9-5 job for them.

25

00:00:56,755 --> 00:00:58,958

And they wouldn't have lasted if it had

26

00:00:58,991 --> 00:01:03,396

because this was 8, 10, 20 years of some people's lives.

27

00:01:03,429 --> 00:01:05,598

What kept them motivated is, they were, you know,

28

00:01:05,631 --> 00:01:07,266

everybody was passionate about the science.

29

00:01:07,299 --> 00:01:09,302

They were excited about finding those exoplanets.

30

00:01:09,335 --> 00:01:10,837

Livesay: From its beginnings it was

31

00:01:10,870 --> 00:01:13,172

the little mission that could.

32

00:01:13,205 --> 00:01:15,675

Definitely the concept  
and the idea -

33

00:01:15,708 --> 00:01:17,076

a lot of people thought  
it couldn't be done,

34

00:01:17,109 --> 00:01:19,412

it was a crazy thing to do.

35

00:01:19,445 --> 00:01:23,883

And so in that way it was  
really demonstrated

36

00:01:23,916 --> 00:01:25,384

that it could be done.

37

00:01:25,417 --> 00:01:25,416

Gautier: What  
Kepler

38

00:01:25,417 --> 00:01:25,416

<i> really</i>

39

00:01:25,417 --> 00:01:27,854

did,

40

00:01:27,887 --> 00:01:30,123

and what it was so  
successful at,

41

00:01:30,156 --> 00:01:33,659

is just discovering that

42

00:01:33,692 --> 00:01:35,328

essentially every star  
has a planet.

43

00:01:35,361 --> 00:01:36,362

This is a big deal.

44

00:01:36,395 --> 00:01:38,698

There's lots and lots  
of planets out there

45

00:01:38,731 --> 00:01:41,734

and that was not appreciated  
before Kepler.

46

00:01:43,002 --> 00:01:44,003

NASA's Ames Research Center in  
California's Silicon Valley

47

00:01:44,036 --> 00:01:44,670

manages the Kepler and K2  
missions for NASA's

48

00:01:44,704 --> 00:01:45,805

Science Mission Directorate.

49

00:01:45,838 --> 00:01:46,639

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
in Pasadena, California,

50

00:01:46,672 --> 00:01:47,507

managed Kepler mission  
development.

51

00:01:47,540 --> 00:01:49,108

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory