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00:00:05,866 --> 00:00:12,716

NARRATOR: One of the success stories in the NASA Johnson Space Center Innovation Program is the

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00:00:12,786 --> 00:00:15,226

remote control or RC Helicopter/Rover Project.

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00:00:16,236 --> 00:00:21,286

A group of young JSC engineers came up with this project to provide an inexpensive route

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00:00:21,646 --> 00:00:23,736

to gain scientific data for NASA.

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The Johnson Space Center Director had asked JSC personnel to come up with innovative ideas

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and present them to the Innovation Board

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00:00:32,336 --> 00:00:35,936

where they would be evaluated and if chosen might be funded.

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JEFF FOX: In the Spring of 2010 when Mike Coats put out the Innovation Challenge,

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00:00:41,656 --> 00:00:46,886

many places around NASA including Orion where I was at started looking at what could we do?

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00:00:47,306 --> 00:00:51,936

What do we have that we could bring to the fore and maybe innovate something,

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00:00:51,936 --> 00:00:53,986

or look at something in a different way?

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00:00:54,606 --> 00:00:58,676

And I worked in the Cockpit Group in Orion in the Vehicle Integrations Office.

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We do alot of design and the diplays and controls of the vehicle.

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And we also had an asset called a Remote Cockpit Van leftover from the days of the X-38.

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00:01:09,706 --> 00:01:10,666

It had been mothballed.

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00:01:11,276 --> 00:01:17,136

What can we do with this that maybe would help what we're doing in Orion or maybe bigger

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00:01:17,136 --> 00:01:20,136

around the center with different, new ways of doing business.

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00:01:20,846 --> 00:01:23,966

I wondered if we did something and down-sized

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and went smaller and controlled our own platform.

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00:01:27,826 --> 00:01:33,316

And so the idea of a small helicopter and a small rover was kind of born.

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So we had a low cost way of putting a vehicle out on the field that could move on the ground

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00:01:39,626 --> 00:01:46,246

or move in the air and carry sensors around
where we could study different display feedback,

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00:01:46,356 --> 00:01:50,056

ways of piloting, controls,
displays...that type of thing.

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00:01:50,876 --> 00:01:55,746

Another thing I'm very grateful for is the
people that work directly on this project.

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00:01:56,196 --> 00:01:59,006

All of them are very motivated, very excited.

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00:01:59,006 --> 00:02:04,456

There's a real sense of urgency you can see on
the project to go above and beyond all the time.

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00:02:04,896 --> 00:02:08,566

I feel very fortunate to
be part of this innovation.

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00:02:08,566 --> 00:02:12,446

It's been an exciting opportunity for us.

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00:02:12,446 --> 00:02:16,186

I think everybody on the team
would say the same thing.

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00:02:16,186 --> 00:02:20,006

We were fortunate in that we got a very
small amount of funding to go do this.

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00:02:20,006 --> 00:02:25,126

But I've encouraged folks to not only
look for these calls and submit ideas.

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00:02:25,206 --> 00:02:29,136

But even if they aren't chosen you

can be innovative amongst yourselves

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00:02:29,436 --> 00:02:33,476

about how you can do this even
without a small seed money.

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00:02:33,476 --> 00:02:35,886

There are other ways to partner with folks.

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00:02:35,886 --> 00:02:36,856

They have resources.

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00:02:36,856 --> 00:02:37,656

They have hardware.

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00:02:37,656 --> 00:02:38,306

They have software.

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00:02:38,306 --> 00:02:40,806

They have certain skills.