



1

00:00:01,320 --> 00:00:06,950

44 years ago the Green Bay Packers and the Dallas Cowboys played for the NFL championship

2

00:00:06,950 --> 00:00:10,950

at Lambeau Field in Wisconsin in the famous Ice Bowl.

3

00:00:10,950 --> 00:00:15,490

Today 44 years later in weather very reminiscent of that day,

4

00:00:15,490 --> 00:00:21,040

it is 15 degrees below zero Fahrenheit here at the launch pad at the Baikonur Cosmodrome

5

00:00:21,040 --> 00:00:27,550

in Kazakhstan as the Soyuz TMA-03M spacecraft has now reached the pad and is ready

6

00:00:27,550 --> 00:00:31,230

to be hoisted by hydraulics vertically on the pad

7

00:00:31,230 --> 00:00:34,680

for final preparations for Wednesday evening's launch.

8

00:00:34,680 --> 00:00:40,200

Once it goes vertical, the clamshell-like gantry arms will fold around the vehicle,

9

00:00:40,200 --> 00:00:45,760

and launchpad technicians working in bitterly cold conditions will hook up electrical,

10

00:00:45,760 --> 00:00:50,550

data and fuel lines for the final hours of pre-launch readiness.

11
00:00:50,550 --> 00:00:54,510
That's the scene at the Baikonur
Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

12
00:01:01,580 --> 00:01:13,950
Astronaut Mike Barratt, deputy
chief of the Astronaut Office.

13
00:01:13,950 --> 00:02:02,020
Mike, sunrise here at the Baikonur
Cosmodrome, the Soyuz vehicle at the pad,

14
00:02:02,020 --> 00:02:28,950
15 degrees below zero Fahrenheit,
your thoughts as we prepare

15
00:02:28,950 --> 00:02:32,690
for this final launch of this memorable year.

16
00:02:32,690 --> 00:03:01,080
Well, I think all of us out here are
reminded just how robust this system is.

17
00:03:01,080 --> 00:03:14,920
I have been out here when we hit, I
think it was, 114 degrees in July of '93,

18
00:03:14,920 --> 00:03:20,940
and today minus 14 Fahrenheit, and
everything rolls on exactly as per the plan.

19
00:03:20,940 --> 00:03:22,650
The rocket's in great shape.

20
00:03:22,650 --> 00:03:23,930
The crew's in great shape.

21
00:03:23,930 --> 00:03:27,350
Everything is clicking along, so

I think we're feeling awfully good

22

00:03:27,350 --> 00:03:29,100
about this transportation system.

23

00:03:29,100 --> 00:03:32,680
Underneath all that, that's really Bill
Gerstenmaier, the associate administrator

24

00:03:32,680 --> 00:03:34,330
for human exploration operations.

25

00:03:34,330 --> 00:03:41,840
Bill, a memorable year, a transitional year,
and here at sunrise in -15 degrees Fahrenheit,

26

00:03:41,840 --> 00:03:46,260
the Soyuz is ready to be hoisted vertically
for another trip to the space station.

27

00:03:46,260 --> 00:03:48,820
Your thoughts as the year draws to an end.

28

00:03:48,820 --> 00:03:50,740
It's been an amazing year.

29

00:03:50,740 --> 00:03:54,710
I think back and I reflect on what
we really accomplished this year,

30

00:03:54,710 --> 00:04:00,030
and it's just absolutely phenomenal;
the conclusion of the shuttle program,

31

00:04:00,030 --> 00:04:04,450
then the Progress failure, recovery from
the Progress failure with the Soyuz,

32

00:04:04,450 --> 00:04:09,490

and then to be here today, ready to go launch the Soyuz again is just phenomenal testimony

33

00:04:09,490 --> 00:04:10,330

to what we're doing.

34

00:04:10,330 --> 00:04:14,040

And then also I think about all the work that's been going on onboard the space station.

35

00:04:14,040 --> 00:04:16,240

You know, even during this time when we've had three crew,

36

00:04:16,240 --> 00:04:18,150

we've been getting a lot of research done.

37

00:04:18,150 --> 00:04:20,690

We're getting a lot of activities done aboard the space station.

38

00:04:20,690 --> 00:04:26,380

So it's really been just an amazing year for us, and I just think back,

39

00:04:26,380 --> 00:04:28,720

and I just think how blessed we are to work in this industry.