



EXPEDITION 31

**OLEG KONONENKO**  
Commander

1

00:00:01,006 --> 00:00:03,166

Good morning from the Johnson Space Center.

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00:00:03,166 --> 00:00:04,966

This is Mission Control, Houston.

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00:00:04,966 --> 00:00:09,666

You're looking at the International Space  
Station flight control room once again as a team

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00:00:09,666 --> 00:00:13,976

of flight controllers watches over all of the  
systems aboard the International Space Station.

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00:00:14,396 --> 00:00:19,166

The team today being led by Flight  
Director Ed Van Cise once again.

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00:00:19,556 --> 00:00:26,556

He is watching over this team throughout much  
of the daytime hours, as his team is part

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00:00:26,556 --> 00:00:30,326

of three teams that watch over the  
station systems around the clock.

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00:00:30,896 --> 00:00:38,426

He's joined by Jay Marshky, who is handling  
communications efforts between this team

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00:00:38,426 --> 00:00:41,976

and the crew on board the  
International Space Station as well.

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00:00:41,976 --> 00:00:42,043

[radio chatter]

11

00:00:42,043 --> 00:00:48,296

That crew on board the station

is made up of three crew members,

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00:00:48,296 --> 00:00:51,346

one of those U.S. astronaut Don Pettit.

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00:00:51,346 --> 00:00:56,486

He's serving as flight engineer number six as part of the Expedition 31 crew.

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00:00:56,796 --> 00:01:03,866

He's currently working on an experiment that will take a good bit of the rest of his day.

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00:01:04,266 --> 00:01:10,086

Efforts on that experiment ongoing real-time, the Burning and Suppression

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00:01:10,086 --> 00:01:12,116

of Solids experiment known as BASS.

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00:01:12,486 --> 00:01:17,816

He's working directly with the principal investigator Paul Ferkul

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00:01:17,866 --> 00:01:25,436

who is telerobotically taking part with him, looking over his shoulders

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00:01:25,436 --> 00:01:29,196

as we are, as he operates this experiment.

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00:01:29,766 --> 00:01:33,616

Ferkul has a Ph.D. and is with the National Center

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00:01:33,616 --> 00:01:36,566

for Space Exploration Research in Cleveland, Ohio.

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00:01:37,626 --> 00:01:43,736

Along with Pettit his other two crew members,  
Commander Oleg Kononenko is operating

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00:01:43,736 --> 00:01:45,576

in the Russian segment of the station.

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00:01:45,576 --> 00:01:51,226

He's also spending some time doing some  
housekeeping chores in the U.S. segment,

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00:01:51,226 --> 00:01:55,726

cleaning some filters as they  
periodically have to be checked to make sure

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00:01:55,726 --> 00:02:00,626

that nothing is blocking the  
airflow or the flow to any

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00:02:00,626 --> 00:02:03,086

of the other systems on board  
the station as well.

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00:02:03,796 --> 00:02:07,286

Also on board is Andre Kuipers  
from The Netherlands.

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00:02:07,646 --> 00:02:13,296

He is serving as flight engineer number  
five of the International Space Station.

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00:02:13,686 --> 00:02:17,586

He is continuing with his  
efforts on what's known

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00:02:17,586 --> 00:02:22,626

as the ENERGY experiment sponsored  
by the European Space Agency.

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00:02:23,046 --> 00:02:29,036

It essentially is an experiment designed to help measure long-term space effects

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00:02:29,036 --> 00:02:31,666  
on astronauts' energies in space.

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00:02:32,086 --> 00:02:37,056  
So, he's taking different types of measurements associated with that experiment

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00:02:37,056 --> 00:02:42,426  
as an ongoing effort, and Pettit also is taking part in that experiment as well.

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00:02:43,306 --> 00:02:47,986  
Those three crew members have been on board the station now for 140 days.

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00:02:48,336 --> 00:02:52,386  
They've been in space for 142 days since their launch

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00:02:52,386 --> 00:02:56,486  
on their Soyuz spacecraft back in December of 2011.

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00:02:57,046 --> 00:03:04,546  
They will be joined in the next week or so by three new crew members that are preparing

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00:03:04,826 --> 00:03:10,636  
for launch to the International Space Station there at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

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00:03:10,636 --> 00:03:16,876  
In the center, Gennady Padalka who serves as the Soyuz commander, but he's also going

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00:03:16,876 --> 00:03:19,426  
to be the Expedition 32 commander.

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00:03:19,836 --> 00:03:25,536

He's joined on the left by Sergei Revin, a cosmonaut colleague,

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00:03:25,756 --> 00:03:28,406

and on the right by U.S. astronaut Joe Acaba.

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00:03:28,876 --> 00:03:34,266

Their Soyuz spacecraft will be integrated with its rocket on Saturday and rolled

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00:03:34,266 --> 00:03:39,906

to the launch pad on Sunday, ahead of its launch to the International Space Station scheduled

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00:03:39,906 --> 00:03:45,366

for 10:01 p.m. Central, 11:01 at night Eastern time on Monday.

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00:03:45,516 --> 00:03:52,176

Following a two-day rendezvous, they expect to dock with the International Space Station