



1
00:00:05,510 --> 00:00:03,200
dr. Alexander Gerst was born in Kuhn

2
00:00:07,940 --> 00:00:05,520
zl-- South a small town in rural South

3
00:00:09,530 --> 00:00:07,950
Central Germany he liked being close to

4
00:00:12,320 --> 00:00:09,540
nature and looking up at the night sky

5
00:00:13,970 --> 00:00:12,330
and his curiosity was piqued when his

6
00:00:16,700 --> 00:00:13,980
grandfather talked to people all over

7
00:00:20,450 --> 00:00:16,710
the world on his amateur radio one day

8
00:00:22,310 --> 00:00:20,460
he somehow managed to adjust his antenna

9
00:00:25,519 --> 00:00:22,320
such that it would actually broadcast to

10
00:00:29,630 --> 00:00:25,529
the moon and he gave me the microphone

11
00:00:31,609 --> 00:00:29,640
and let me speak a few words into the

12
00:00:33,350 --> 00:00:31,619
radio they would bounce back from the

13
00:00:35,360 --> 00:00:33,360

surface of the Moon and about two and a

14

00:00:38,619 --> 00:00:35,370

half seconds later I would hear my own

15

00:00:40,970 --> 00:00:38,629

words in the radio knowing as a

16

00:00:43,490 --> 00:00:40,980

six-year-old that they were just on the

17

00:00:46,670 --> 00:00:43,500

moon so it was impossible for me to

18

00:00:48,979 --> 00:00:46,680

grasp in the beginning Gerst started his

19

00:00:51,500 --> 00:00:48,989

exploration focused on this planet and

20

00:00:54,110 --> 00:00:51,510

earned a diploma in geophysics from the

21

00:00:55,970 --> 00:00:54,120

University of Karlsruhe in Germany while

22

00:00:58,670 --> 00:00:55,980

also getting his master's in earth

23

00:01:00,770 --> 00:00:58,680

sciences from Victoria University in New

24

00:01:03,500 --> 00:01:00,780

Zealand while working there developing

25

00:01:05,509 --> 00:01:03,510

new volcano monitoring techniques he

26

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:05,519

made four scientific missions to study

27

00:01:10,179 --> 00:01:08,010

volcanoes in Antarctica while working on

28

00:01:12,140 --> 00:01:10,189

his doctorate in Natural Sciences at the

29

00:01:14,330 --> 00:01:12,150

Institute of geophysics

30

00:01:16,640 --> 00:01:14,340

at the University of Hamburg and during

31

00:01:18,890 --> 00:01:16,650

that time he made good on a promise to

32

00:01:21,830 --> 00:01:18,900

himself that he would make at least one

33

00:01:23,600 --> 00:01:21,840

sincere effort to become an astronaut he

34

00:01:26,179 --> 00:01:23,610

was selected for the astronaut corps by

35

00:01:28,910 --> 00:01:26,189

the European Space Agency in 2009

36

00:01:31,429 --> 00:01:28,920

finished his PhD the following year and

37

00:01:33,590 --> 00:01:31,439

has been focused ever since on his

38

00:01:37,550 --> 00:01:33,600

chance to be part of what he calls the

39

00:01:39,710 --> 00:01:37,560

first wave being the first well wave of

40

00:01:43,429 --> 00:01:39,720

explorers on the way out exploring the

41

00:01:47,450 --> 00:01:43,439

universe to moon asteroids Mars and

42

00:01:51,499 --> 00:01:47,460

beyond that is for me such an important