



SPACE TO GROUND

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00:00:00,940 --> 00:00:02,690

VFX: Houston, station on space to ground.

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00:00:02,690 --> 00:00:06,150

DAN HUOT: Welcome to Space to Ground, your weekly look at what's happening on board the

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00:00:06,150 --> 00:00:07,310

International Space Station.

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00:00:07,310 --> 00:00:08,740

I'm Dan Huot.

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00:00:08,740 --> 00:00:12,629

Preparations for the two upcoming spacewalks continued this week, but it looks like the

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00:00:12,629 --> 00:00:15,529

astronauts will have to wait a little longer before heading out the door.

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00:00:15,529 --> 00:00:18,440

REID WISEMAN: Well sadly, it has been postponed.

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00:00:18,440 --> 00:00:22,830

And they figured out there is an issue with our batteries in our U.S. spacesuits, and

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00:00:22,830 --> 00:00:27,110

so i think it's awesome that mission control down in Houston decided to push these off.

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00:00:27,110 --> 00:00:30,200

Of course I'm a little sad about that, but when i go out the door, i want it to be in

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00:00:30,200 --> 00:00:31,550

a good clean configuration.

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00:00:31,550 --> 00:00:35,929

A Russian spacewalk is still on track for August 18th.

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00:00:35,929 --> 00:00:39,989

And spacewalks aren't the only thing that happens outside the i-s-s - numerous science

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00:00:39,989 --> 00:00:43,899

instruments spend their time on the station's exterior, and one device out there right now

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00:00:43,899 --> 00:00:47,570

is changing the way we see our oceans - it's called HICO.

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00:00:47,570 --> 00:00:51,739

Standing for the Hyper-Spectral Imager for the Coastal Ocean, HICO observes the earth

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00:00:51,739 --> 00:00:54,530

in wavelengths that are invisible to the human eye.

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00:00:54,530 --> 00:00:58,569

This ability has been used by organizations like the environmental protection agency to

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00:00:58,569 --> 00:01:03,019

gauge water quality in places like the Tampa and Pensacola bays, looking for things like

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00:01:03,019 --> 00:01:07,540

algae blooms, which can be tough to spot before they become hazardous to public health.

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00:01:07,540 --> 00:01:11,560

More ways to monitor the environment with HICO are still being explored, and it's just

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00:01:11,560 --> 00:01:14,530

one way we are working off the earth, for the earth.

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00:01:14,530 --> 00:01:18,820

This week's twitter question comes from Jamie who asks: "Do the astronauts get taller due

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00:01:18,820 --> 00:01:20,870

to the reduced gravity?"

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00:01:20,870 --> 00:01:25,060

Astronauts actually do get taller in space, but people here on the ground get taller too...every

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00:01:25,060 --> 00:01:26,060

night.

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00:01:26,060 --> 00:01:30,480

Astronauts usually grow up to three percent taller while living in microgravity.

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00:01:30,480 --> 00:01:34,810

We're still looking into why, but the likely reason is that the astronauts' spines elongate

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00:01:34,810 --> 00:01:36,140

while in space.

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00:01:36,140 --> 00:01:40,450

Something very similar happens to us down here each time we lie down to go to sleep,

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00:01:40,450 --> 00:01:41,950

just on a much smaller scale.

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00:01:41,950 --> 00:01:46,250

In fact, Reid Wiseman just reported that he has grown almost two inches since he's been

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00:01:46,250 --> 00:01:50,070

aboard ISS, even with a little extra taken
off the top.