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00:00:01,460 --> 00:00:05,410
\h George Diller/Ares I-X Commentator: We're joined now in the Mission Director's Center by Jon Cowart,

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00:00:05,410 --> 00:00:14,070
\h who is the Ares I-X deputy mission manager from the Kennedy Space Center. And Jon, welcome, but fi

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00:00:14,070 --> 00:00:21,560
\h I wonder if you could kind of give us a status? Give us an update on where we stand in the countdown a

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00:00:21,560 --> 00:00:26,530
\h Jon Cowart/Deputy Mission Manager: Well, George, right now we're somewhere in the neighborhood o

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00:00:26,530 --> 00:00:33,070
\h We've, once again, we've been -- this is a band-new rocket doing things that we don't normally do.

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00:00:33,070 --> 00:00:36,990
\h So, the team is moving very methodically through the process right now.

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00:00:36,990 --> 00:00:43,130
\h And so, with that -- and probably some of you have heard -- we had what's called a torque-tip failure.

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00:00:43,130 --> 00:00:46,480
\h They had to run and go get a replacement as they were putting on one of the doors.

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00:00:46,480 --> 00:00:52,290
\h Just these things build up over time. It's a natural occurrence. And we're working our way through it.

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00:00:52,290 --> 00:00:59,910
\h And you can see on some of the cameras right now they're retracting platforms, getting some of the fina

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00:00:59,910 --> 00:01:05,590
\h Once those platforms are full back and secured, they'll move the old -- what we used to call the GOX ve

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00:01:05,590 --> 00:01:09,670
\h or the GVA -- that's our highest access point into the rocket.

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00:01:09,670 --> 00:01:16,920

\h You know, we've removed that GOX vent hood that we had and put a platform in there, as well as a pur

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00:01:16,920 --> 00:01:22,380
\h Get those things retracted and pulled back. But we're only about a half-hour down, like I said, as it stand

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00:01:22,380 --> 00:01:29,990
\h And what I anticipate is that this really won't affect our launch time of T-0, of 8 o'clock.

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00:01:29,990 --> 00:01:31,850
\h George Diller/Ares I-X Commentator: Well,
give us a little bit more information about how

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00:01:31,850 --> 00:01:38,240
\h the launch pad was modified -- reconfigured from the shuttle program for Ares I-X.

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00:01:38,240 --> 00:01:41,360
\h Jon Cowart/Deputy Mission Manager: Well, there are a few very obvious things. The first one, of course

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00:01:41,360 --> 00:01:46,900
\h I just mentioned -- was that that old beanie cap that we had that supported the shuttle -- that was, as you

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00:01:46,900 --> 00:01:51,290
\h since it went over the very top of the external tank, that was the highest point on the shuttle right there.

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00:01:51,290 --> 00:01:58,270
\h Well, that provided us access to a door,
which is really only about half way up the
rocket on us.

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00:01:58,270 --> 00:02:01,880
\h So, that's one of the mods we've done.

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00:02:01,880 --> 00:02:06,210
\h As I said, gave you a platform to go in there, as well as a purge air duct.

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00:02:06,210 --> 00:02:12,860
\h A little further on down we had to remove -- in order to put up another structure -- we had to remove the

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00:02:12,860 --> 00:02:18,710
\h which is at what we used to call the 195-foot level on the fixed service structure. Once that was removed

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00:02:18,710 --> 00:02:21,810
\h we were able to put into place the vehicle
stabilization system.

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00:02:21,810 --> 00:02:26,350
\h These are the two big arms that you can see on some of your channels right now.

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00:02:26,350 --> 00:02:32,900
\h These actually hold on to two -- for lack of a better term -- two trailer balls that we installed on the side o

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00:02:32,900 --> 00:02:37,650
\h These are obviously very expensive and very beefy trailer balls that allow us to hold the

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00:02:37,650 --> 00:02:42,930
\h rocket very steady when it's out at the pad in winds up to 65 knots.

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00:02:42,930 --> 00:02:45,780
\h So, we did that modification right there.

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00:02:45,780 --> 00:02:50,140
\h And then off of the rotating service structure -- just once again, we're trying to be as efficient with

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00:02:50,140 --> 00:02:55,370
\h what we had out there at the pad already and not build any more structure than we have to.

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00:02:55,370 --> 00:02:59,180
\h There was one more access point we
needed to build off of the rotating service

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00:02:59,180 --> 00:03:02,330
\h structure that got us access into what we call the FSAM,

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00:03:02,330 --> 00:03:09,580
\h or the first stage avionics module, area. With those modifications done, we now have three points where

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00:03:09,580 --> 00:03:16,330
\h One there in the upper stage, one for the FSAM, and then the last one is an existing one that we're usin

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00:03:16,330 --> 00:03:20,320
\h and that gets you to the igniter at the top of the solid rocket booster.

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00:03:20,320 --> 00:03:27,170
\h You have to go in there and do some final closeout preparations in there right before we go fly. And so,

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00:03:27,170 --> 00:03:32,280
\h In fact, as far as the upper stage and the FSAM access,

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00:03:32,280 --> 00:03:36,940
\h there was really no intent when we got to the pad to go in there and do any normal operations.

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00:03:36,940 --> 00:03:41,080
\h But we wanted to maintain that capability, so if there was something that required us to go

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00:03:41,080 --> 00:03:44,240
\h in there we didn't have to roll all the way back to the VAB.

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00:03:44,240 --> 00:03:49,390
\h So, we did the most rudimentary things we
could do in order to get us the access that

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00:03:49,390 --> 00:03:52,860
\h we might need and keep operations as simple as possible.

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00:03:52,860 --> 00:03:54,520
\h George Diller/Ares I-X Commentator:
Alright, Jon, thanks very much.

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00:03:54,520 --> 00:03:57,490
\h And we're going to be listening to this weather briefing shortly.

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00:03:57,490 --> 00:04:02,750
\h And they're getting ready to pull back the rotating service structure. So, we've got some activity coming

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00:04:02,750 --> 00:04:08,390
\h And we'll be talking with you a little bit later about how we got the vehicle out to the pad.

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00:04:08,390 --> 00:04:09,420
\h Jon Cowart/Deputy Mission Manager: OK, George, thank you.

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00:04:09,420 --> 00:04:13,080
\h George Diller/Ares I-X Commentator:
Thanks very much. At T-1 hour, 11 minutes,

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00:04:13,080 --> 00:04:24,510
\h 26 seconds and counting, here's the upper stage access arm retracting.