



1
00:00:00,370 --> 00:00:01,370

Music

2
00:00:07,350 --> 00:00:08,310

NARRATOR: From space shuttles coming back home to astronauts

3
00:00:10,390 --> 00:00:12,113

making training and weather reconnaissance flights, the Shuttle Landing

4
00:00:13,400 --> 00:00:17,266

Facility normally sees some of the fastest craft on wings.

5
00:00:17,670 --> 00:00:22,270

Recently, it hosted one of the fastest vehicles on wheels as NASCAR's

6
00:00:22,390 --> 00:00:26,323

Joe Gibbs Racing team used the stretch to evaluate its car.

7
00:00:26,470 --> 00:00:28,649

Dan Olson, Aerodynamic Engineer, Joe Gibbs Racing: This is, this is our

8
00:00:28,650 --> 00:00:29,793

first time testing at the SLF here at the Kennedy Space Center and it's

9
00:00:32,240 --> 00:00:35,506

really been a nice facility so far for us to use.

10
00:00:35,690 --> 00:00:37,209

Matt DiBenedetto, Driver, Joe Gibbs Racing: I never thought I'd get lucky

11
00:00:37,210 --> 00:00:37,823

enough to come out and be able to use the Kennedy Space Center

12
00:00:40,730 --> 00:00:41,073

runway. You know, a lot of history with the shuttle landing here and all that.

13
00:00:45,520 --> 00:00:46,856

NARRATOR: DiBenedetto drove a car just like the ones raced at

14

00:00:48,250 --> 00:00:52,450

superspeedways such as Daytona and Talladega. Capable of speeds

15

00:00:52,660 --> 00:00:57,126

above 200 mph, the cars top out at about 230 mph, the same speed as

16

00:00:58,650 --> 00:01:00,850

the shuttle when it touches down.

17

00:01:00,870 --> 00:01:02,210

DAN OLSON: Today we're doing coast down testing, so we'll have the

18

00:01:03,930 --> 00:01:09,196

driver go out, accelerate to 205 mph, he'll coast down, he'll put it in neutral

19

00:01:09,230 --> 00:01:09,910

and coast all the way down to 150 then he'll accelerate again back up to

20

00:01:13,350 --> 00:01:14,093

205, coast down to 150, turn around at the end and repeat that two more

21

00:01:17,340 --> 00:01:18,576

times as he comes back. We'll have him do three loops of that so we'll

22

00:01:20,770 --> 00:01:21,206

actually get 12 coasts per outing and then we're able to take that data and,

23

00:01:25,400 --> 00:01:30,133

from the coast segments, analyze the drag and downforce on the vehicle.

24

00:01:31,080 --> 00:01:31,816

NARRATOR: The three-mile-long runway at Kennedy is one of the

25

00:01:34,410 --> 00:01:35,546

longest in the world. It also is flatter than many other testing grounds for

26

00:01:38,340 --> 00:01:40,073

high-performance vehicles.

27

00:01:40,210 --> 00:01:40,706

Matt DiBenedetto: Obviously with the runway being so long, it opens up to

28

00:01:44,580 --> 00:01:44,846

a lot of things we could do for testing.

29

00:01:46,980 --> 00:01:48,640

NARRATOR: The results of the testing could show on the race track in short order.

30

00:01:50,720 --> 00:01:51,076

MATT: If it's something good, it could be transferred as close as next week and as far as next year.

31

00:01:57,030 --> 00:01:57,923

NARRATOR: Although the Joe Gibbs crew is used to being in the spotlight, some would