



1
00:00:01,120 --> 00:00:07,100

For two of NASA's storied space shuttle orbiters, the lights have gone out for the last time.

2
00:00:07,100 --> 00:00:14,740

Discovery and Atlantis were permanently powered down in December 2011, as teams at NASA's Kennedy Space

3
00:00:14,740 --> 00:00:18,790

in Florida prepare the vehicles for public display.

4
00:00:18,790 --> 00:00:25,470

It was an emotional milestone for the technicians, test conductors and system engineers who have spent years

5
00:00:25,470 --> 00:00:29,200

decades -- preparing each spacecraft for its next flight.

6
00:00:29,200 --> 00:00:38,530

Bob Cabana, Kennedy Space Center Director: "It's okay, it's okay. It'll be alright. It's okay."

7
00:00:38,530 --> 00:00:47,720

The final assignment for Discovery's processing team on Dec. 16, 2011, was to close the 60-foot-long payload

8
00:00:47,720 --> 00:00:53,000

Many gathered for one last look inside the shuttle's payload bay.

9
00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:54,460

STEPHANIE STILSON, NASA Flow Director - Shuttle Transition and Retirement: "Even at the Smithsonian, the

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00:00:54,460 --> 00:01:00,550

plans to open the payload bay doors on Discovery, so as far as we know right now, those doors will never open

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00:01:00,550 --> 00:01:06,320

Then it was time for the spacecraft operators on Discovery's flight deck to shut down the power.

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00:01:06,320 --> 00:01:14,380

GENE DIXON, Spacecraft Operator - United Space Alliance: "And CRT 1, off now. CRT 2, off now. CRT 3, off

13
00:01:14,380 --> 00:01:19,090

STILSON: "And actually our Center Director Bob Cabana was there, so he actually pulled the plug on that power

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00:01:19,090 --> 00:01:22,680

And that was it for Discovery."

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00:01:22,680 --> 00:01:30,250

December 22 was the last day that work on Atlantis would require power. Its starboard robotic arm and Ku band

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00:01:30,250 --> 00:01:36,800

antenna were stowed inside the payload bay for the vehicle's upcoming move into temporary storage.

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00:01:36,800 --> 00:01:41,150

STILSON: "So we were anxious to get as much work done on Atlantis and get to a point where we could then c

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00:01:41,150 --> 00:01:47,080

do work on Atlantis in the Vehicle Assembly Building while she was staged there in a waiting mode."

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00:01:47,080 --> 00:01:53,570

Then the focus turned to the flight deck as Atlantis -- known by the shuttle team as OV-104 -- was powered down

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00:01:53,570 --> 00:01:55,500

last time.

21

00:01:55,500 --> 00:02:01,190

BILL POWERS, Spacecraft Operator -United Space Alliance: "AC bus sensor 1, off now. AC bus sensor 2, off

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00:02:01,190 --> 00:02:07,080

thank you very much. And, OV-104 final power-down's complete."

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00:02:07,080 --> 00:02:13,390

Discovery and Atlantis have gone dark, but the team has one more power-down to get through. Shuttle Endeav

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00:02:13,390 --> 00:02:15,320

be next.

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00:02:15,320 --> 00:02:19,590

PAT LESLIE, Vehicle Operations Chief -United Space Alliance: "It's sad, but, you know, progress. You have to

