



1
00:00:00,020 --> 00:00:05,140
Music

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00:00:05,140 --> 00:00:10,920
The landmark Vehicle Assembly Building at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida is getting a renovation

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00:00:10,920 --> 00:00:14,700
so it can remain a fixture of America's space program.

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00:00:14,700 --> 00:00:21,550
After almost five decades stacking and processing Saturn Vs and the space shuttle fleet, the VAB needs

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00:00:21,550 --> 00:00:28,310
improvement on a grand scale to service new launchers expected to debut in the next few years.

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00:00:28,310 --> 00:00:35,450
The new designs include the Space Launch System, a massive rocket intended to return astronauts to deep space

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The building also will be set up to host commercial rockets that are much smaller.

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With that in mind, engineers from the Ground Systems Development and Operations Program have designed

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flexible systems that can meet the needs of several different kinds of boosters.

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00:00:51,400 --> 00:00:57,730
They also are making provisions for handling spacecraft, including NASA's Orion, now in development.

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But much of the work will focus on replacing wiring, cables and fire protection system piping to meet modern

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standards and increase reliability.

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00:01:07,470 --> 00:01:13,300

Already, 70,000 feet of cabling has been pulled out of the building's cable trays.

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In all, 50 miles of cables will be removed. Most are bundles of copper wiring that were common in 1965,

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when the VAB was constructed.

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00:01:23,760 --> 00:01:28,860

Now, it only requires a couple fiber-optic lines about as wide as a finger to

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00:01:28,860 --> 00:01:31,480

meet the needs of rocket processors.

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00:01:31,480 --> 00:01:38,280

Seven huge platforms bolted in High Bay 3 to service the Saturn V will be removed to make room

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00:01:38,280 --> 00:01:42,700

for modern structures, each weighing about 90,000 pounds.

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00:01:42,700 --> 00:01:48,110

The new platforms will be outfitted with everything required to process a rocket and spacecraft.