



1

00:00:01,240 --> 00:00:12,660

George Diller, NASA Commentator: T-10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5...all three engines up and burning?2, 1, zero

2

00:00:12,660 --> 00:00:21,830

and liftoff! The final liftoff of Atlantis. On the shoulders of the space shuttle, America will continue the dream.

3

00:00:21,830 --> 00:00:23,910

Chris Ferguson, STS-135 Commander: Roll program, Houston.

4

00:00:23,910 --> 00:00:26,380

Barry Wilmore, Capcom: Roger roll, Atlantis.

5

00:00:26,380 --> 00:00:29,020

Rob Navias, NASA Commentator: Houston now controlling the flight of Atlantis.

6

00:00:29,020 --> 00:00:34,390

The space shuttle spreads its wings one final time for the start of a sentimental journey into history.

7

00:00:34,390 --> 00:00:40,450

(nat sound of STS-135 Landing)

8

00:00:40,450 --> 00:00:43,620

Rob Navias, NASA Commentator: Main gear touchdown.

9

00:00:43,620 --> 00:00:47,950

Chris Ferguson, STS-135 Commander: Mission complete, Houston. After serving the world for over 30 years,

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00:00:47,950 --> 00:00:53,880

the space shuttle has earned its place in history, and it has come to a final stop.

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00:00:53,880 --> 00:00:57,550

Barry Wilmore, Capcom: We copy your wheel stop and we'll take this opportunity to congratulate you,

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00:00:57,550 --> 00:01:01,510

Atlantis, as well as the thousands of passionate individuals across this great

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00:01:01,510 --> 00:01:07,170

spacefaring nation who truly empowered this incredible spacecraft ?

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00:01:07,170 --> 00:01:12,000

which for three decades has inspired millions around the globe.

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:15,940

NARRATOR: A year after the retirement of NASA's space shuttles and their shipment to

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00:01:15,940 --> 00:01:18,670

museums across the nation, the work force at

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00:01:18,670 --> 00:01:24,910

NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida is remaking America's gateway to space.

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00:01:24,910 --> 00:01:28,660

A dynamic infrastructure is taking shape, one designed to host many

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00:01:28,660 --> 00:01:34,340

kinds of rockets and spacecraft sending people on humanity's great adventures.

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00:01:34,340 --> 00:01:38,770

Orbiter Processing Facility 3, no longer needed to service shuttles,

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00:01:38,770 --> 00:01:42,350

has been revamped and turned over to Space Florida.

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00:01:42,350 --> 00:01:45,800

They will partner with the Boeing Company to manufacture, assemble,

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00:01:45,800 --> 00:01:51,780

and test the company's Crew Space Transportation CST-100 spacecraft.

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00:01:51,780 --> 00:01:55,330

OPFs 1 and 2 also are expected to be used in the future for

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00:01:55,330 --> 00:02:01,240

spacecraft processing as Kennedy's unique capabilities are adapted to new users.

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00:02:01,240 --> 00:02:09,010

Negotiations are also under way for Launch Complex 39 for use of its twin pads A and B.

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00:02:09,010 --> 00:02:11,770

Robert Cabana, Kennedy Space Center Director: We still have many challenges in front of us.

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00:02:11,770 --> 00:02:17,170

But I believe our future is bright, and as great as our last 50 years have been,

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00:02:17,170 --> 00:02:21,500

I believe our next 50 years are going to be even better.

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00:02:21,500 --> 00:02:27,710

NARRATOR: Some of the work has already paid off, offering the NASA community hints of what the future holds.

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00:02:27,710 --> 00:02:34,990

SpaceX, for instance, launched a demonstration cargo delivery flight to the International Space Station in May.

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00:02:34,990 --> 00:02:42,730

The company and NASA proved that cooperation can overcome daunting technical hurdles safely and effectively.

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00:02:42,730 --> 00:02:47,220

Like OPF-3, the high bay at the Operations and Checkout Building

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00:02:47,220 --> 00:02:51,170

has been remade into a modern aerospace factory floor.

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00:02:51,170 --> 00:02:56,130

Space Florida and Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company renovated the facility,

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00:02:56,130 --> 00:02:59,880

once used to process space vehicles in the Apollo era.

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00:02:59,880 --> 00:03:04,350

It will serve as the final assembly and checkout facility for the Orion crew

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00:03:04,350 --> 00:03:09,510

exploration vehicles, which includes the crew and service modules.

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00:03:09,510 --> 00:03:14,300

The first space-bound Orion rolled into the facility June 29 to begin assembly and

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00:03:14,300 --> 00:03:21,450

processing for a flight test in 2014. NASA and its astronauts are counting on the Orion to

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00:03:21,450 --> 00:03:25,680

take people into deep space for the first time since Apollo.

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00:03:25,680 --> 00:03:28,160

Rex Walheim, STS-135 Astronaut: We don't know what we don't know, and when we find those

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00:03:28,160 --> 00:03:31,140

things and we make those discoveries, we're going to be better off just as a people but

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00:03:31,140 --> 00:03:35,070

also it's going to have applications that help make our life better.

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00:03:35,070 --> 00:03:39,100

NARRATOR: Workers and technicians are refurbishing the Vehicle Assembly Building, Launch

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00:03:39,100 --> 00:03:46,800

Pad 39B and numerous other facilities in anticipation of a new golden age of spaceflight.

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00:03:46,800 --> 00:03:50,730

When the work is completed, the center will, for the first time, be equipped to assemble

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00:03:50,730 --> 00:03:55,460

process and launch several kinds of spacecraft and launchers,

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00:03:55,460 --> 00:04:00,850

including ships designed to take astronauts far beyond low Earth orbit.

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00:04:00,850 --> 00:04:05,490

The Commercial Crew Program, based at Kennedy, has made strides toward bringing those

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00:04:05,490 --> 00:04:11,660

vehicles into existence by sharing NASA's hard-earned expertise with private companies.

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00:04:11,660 --> 00:04:18,550

The goal is to develop innovative spacecraft to take astronauts to the International Space Station.

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00:04:18,550 --> 00:04:23,650

While the launchers and spacecraft that will take people into space are invented and tested,

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00:04:23,650 --> 00:04:28,980

NASA's Launch Services Program continues to dispatch NASA explorers of a different kind to

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00:04:28,980 --> 00:04:35,530

survey the cosmos and visit some of the most tantalizing destinations in the solar system.

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00:04:35,530 --> 00:04:41,200

Riding atop an Atlas V rocket, the car-sized rover "Curiosity" lifted off from Kennedy on

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00:04:41,200 --> 00:04:48,180

November 26, 2011 on an ambitious mission to place a robotic geologist on Mars so

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00:04:48,180 --> 00:04:53,230

researchers can find out more about the mysterious red planet.

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00:04:53,230 --> 00:04:59,200

The Juno mission also began at Kennedy, with an Atlas V thundering spaceward on August 5 to

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00:04:59,200 --> 00:05:05,420

place the 4-ton spacecraft on a course for Jupiter, the largest planet in the solar system.

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00:05:05,420 --> 00:05:09,530

A pair of small spacecraft known as GRAIL were sent to our closest astronomical

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00:05:09,530 --> 00:05:13,070

neighbor, the moon, aboard a Delta II rocket on Sept.

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00:05:13,070 --> 00:05:19,360

10 to map the lunar gravity field with unprecedented precision.

64

00:05:19,360 --> 00:05:22,920

From new programs being established to the refurbishment of center

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00:05:22,920 --> 00:05:27,210

landmarks to the successful launches of innovative spacecraft,

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00:05:27,210 --> 00:05:32,560

Kennedy remains at center stage in NASA's space exploration ambitions.