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00:00:01,090 --> 00:00:06,100

\h NARRATOR: Space Exploration Technologies of Hawthorne, Calif., known as SpaceX, will

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00:00:06,100 --> 00:00:08,630

\h launch a Dragon capsule on one of the

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00:00:08,630 --> 00:00:13,530

\h company's Falcon 9 rockets to perform the first operational cargo resupply mission to the

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00:00:13,530 --> 00:00:17,570

\h International Space Station.

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00:00:17,570 --> 00:00:23,540

\h The astronauts aboard the space station are awaiting more than 1,000 pounds of experiment equipment

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00:00:23,540 --> 00:00:28,030

\h due to arrive inside the Dragon capsule in the next few days.

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00:00:28,030 --> 00:00:34,260

\h This will be the first of 12 such missions for SpaceX and the first operational mission for an American ca

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00:00:34,260 --> 00:00:41,320

\h craft since the space shuttle fleet retired in 2011. The station is also supplied by cargo ships

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00:00:41,320 --> 00:00:45,950

\h from Russia, Europe and Japan.

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00:00:45,950 --> 00:00:51,890

\h The flight comes four months after the company completed a milestone mission that saw a similar Drag

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00:00:51,890 --> 00:00:59,550

\h grappled and linked to the station, becoming the first commercially built and operated spacecraft to do s

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00:00:59,550 --> 00:01:06,980

\h This mission, called CRS-1, places nearly identical demands on the American-made Dragon and its Fal

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00:01:06,980 --> 00:01:08,490

\h launcher.

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00:01:08,490 --> 00:01:13,850

\h The Falcon's nine first stage engines will lift the Dragon spacecraft off the launch pad and

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00:01:13,850 --> 00:01:17,020

\h into the upper atmosphere.

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00:01:17,020 --> 00:01:22,440

\h The first stage will fall away and the second stage's single engine will fire to place the Dragon in a

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00:01:22,440 --> 00:01:30,940

\h 193-mile by 212-mile-high orbit that will set Dragon on course to catch up to the station.

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00:01:30,940 --> 00:01:36,330

\h The SpaceX capsule will not be carrying any people, only cargo. When it gets in close to the

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00:01:36,330 --> 00:01:41,720

\h station three days after launch, astronauts onboard the orbiting laboratory will use the robotic

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00:01:41,720 --> 00:01:46,520

\h arm to grapple it and maneuver it to an empty port.

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00:01:46,520 --> 00:01:52,320

\h Shortly after, the astronauts will remove a freezer for scientific samples, along with other supplies,

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00:01:52,320 --> 00:01:55,020

\h from the Dragon.

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00:01:55,020 --> 00:02:00,630

\h They will place more than 2,000 pounds of used equipment and completed scientific samples inside the

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00:02:00,630 --> 00:02:03,820

\h Dragon for a safe return to Earth.

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00:02:03,820 --> 00:02:09,420

\h After three weeks at the station, the Dragon will be grappled again by the robotic arm and

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00:02:09,420 --> 00:02:14,590

\h released onto a path so SpaceX controllers can guide it back to Earth.