



1  
00:00:00,860 --> 00:00:09,830  
Music

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00:00:09,830 --> 00:00:15,750  
Narrator: As Atlantis rolled to its new home at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex,

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00:00:15,750 --> 00:00:21,090  
NASA and its commercial crew partners reflect on the Space Shuttle Program's tremendous

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00:00:21,090 --> 00:00:30,340  
accomplishments and vow to continue America's leadership in space.

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00:00:30,340 --> 00:00:32,890  
Ed Mango/NASA's Commercial Crew Program: You know, 135 flights in space on the Space Shuttle

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00:00:32,890 --> 00:00:38,200  
Program is not a sad thing. It's an unbelievable accomplishment for the American people,

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00:00:38,200 --> 00:00:44,970  
for the astronauts, for the engineers that worked on it.

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00:00:44,970 --> 00:00:49,250  
Mark Sirangelo/Sierra Nevada Corp.: Some people say the spirit of space has somehow ebbed or died

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00:00:49,250 --> 00:00:52,770  
and I don't think it has. I think it's just gone through the next level of generation and we're ready to pick

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00:00:52,770 --> 00:00:56,740  
up that torch and run with it.

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00:00:56,740 --> 00:01:01,630  
Tim Hughes/SpaceX: Human spaceflight is far from over. In fact, it's just beginning.

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00:01:01,630 --> 00:01:08,230  
With the SpaceX launches to the space station and successful re-entries over the past few months,

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00:01:08,230 --> 00:01:13,290

to be followed on with an all-American Commercial Crew Program and then with NASA's other programs

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00:01:13,290 --> 00:01:24,980

that are going to take us deep into space, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

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00:01:24,980 --> 00:01:27,870

Pete McGrath/Boeing: If you look at the way the future is positioned today, commercial crew is going to

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00:01:27,870 --> 00:01:32,210

provide a more cost-effective way to actually provide access to space station so that we can actually

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00:01:32,210 --> 00:01:38,400

take that next step that we've been really eager to do, which is go explore the cosmos.

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00:01:38,400 --> 00:01:41,450

Ed Mango/NASA's Commercial Crew Program: We built a space station that's as big as a football field

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00:01:41,450 --> 00:01:47,360

with our orbiters. So, we are capable of doing great things in space.

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00:01:47,360 --> 00:01:48,790

Josephine Burnett/International Space Station Ground Processing and Research: The International

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00:01:48,790 --> 00:01:53,150

Space Station can be used for NASA's future mission, the exploration mission. It's a whole lot safer to be

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00:01:53,150 --> 00:01:58,340

able to test technologies and life support systems in the relative safety of the International Space

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00:01:58,340 --> 00:02:05,320

Station before we send our humans out into to the great unknown beyond low-Earth orbit.

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00:02:05,320 --> 00:02:07,910

Ed Mango/NASA's Commercial Crew Program: By 2016 or so we're going to be starting to fly test

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00:02:07,910 --> 00:02:12,450

missions to orbit, and checking out these systems and making sure these vehicles are going to work.

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00:02:12,450 --> 00:02:17,060

And by 2017, we'll have at least one company that will now be ready to go take crew to the

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00:02:17,060 --> 00:02:20,540

International Space Station.

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00:02:20,540 --> 00:02:25,610

Pete McGrath/Boeing: Our basis is on Gemini, Apollo, Mercury, all the way through shuttle, Skylab,

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00:02:25,610 --> 00:02:30,630

you know, space station. We've basically worked on every human spaceflight system with NASA.

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00:02:30,630 --> 00:02:34,760

So, with that we draw a lot of heritage and knowledge of what it takes to really certify and build systems

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00:02:34,760 --> 00:02:37,210

for humans.

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00:02:37,210 --> 00:02:41,540

Tim Hughes/SpaceX: And to think that a little company that was started in 2002 with just a couple of

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00:02:41,540 --> 00:02:48,670

folks has now in some measure taken over the responsibilities of the space shuttle as to cargo carriage

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00:02:48,670 --> 00:02:54,450

and then potentially for human carriage in the near term, it's really humbling.

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00:02:54,450 --> 00:02:57,530

Mark Sirangelo/Sierra Nevada Corp.: It's one of those really special things. We now have, we've hired

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00:02:57,530 --> 00:03:01,770

several hundred new people over the last couple of years and we've had 10 times as many applicants for

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00:03:01,770 --> 00:03:06,340

it. And it just tells you how excited people are. Our problem is not getting people to go to work,

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00:03:06,340 --> 00:03:10,780

our problem is actually getting them to go home at the end of the day because they're just so passionate

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00:03:10,780 --> 00:03:14,830

about what they're doing, they just want to make it happen as soon as possible.

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00:03:14,830 --> 00:03:19,190

Chris Ferguson/STS-135 Commander: The space shuttle has changed the way we view the world,

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00:03:19,190 --> 00:03:23,090

and it's changed the way we view our universe. There's a lot of emotion today, but one thing's

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00:03:23,090 --> 00:03:27,010

indisputable, America's not going to stop exploring.