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00:00:00,800 --> 00:00:11,660

NARRATOR: Welcome to Kennedy NOW! A look at the progress of change at America's premiere spaceport!

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00:00:11,660 --> 00:00:17,550

Kennedy launch teams were on the move in June, launching missions from facilities in California to improve

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00:00:17,550 --> 00:00:24,180

our understanding of the sun and to show young engineers how to make future satellites better.

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00:00:24,180 --> 00:00:31,000

NASA's Launch Services Program, based at Kennedy, processed the agency's IRIS solar observatory mission

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00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:35,140

sent it aloft on a Pegasus rocket on June 27.

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00:00:35,140 --> 00:00:40,210

Vandenberg Air Force Base hosted the Kennedy team so the spacecraft could be put into an orbit that will

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00:00:40,210 --> 00:00:45,080

take it roughly over both of Earth's poles during each revolution.

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00:00:45,080 --> 00:00:50,990

The launch capped a nearly three-week stretch that began when LSP engineers led by Garrett Skrobot

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00:00:50,990 --> 00:00:56,100

packed a small booster with tiny, but fully functional, cubesats and launched

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00:00:56,100 --> 00:00:58,890

them high above the Mojave Desert.

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00:00:58,890 --> 00:01:03,370

The mission tested four payloads for an orbital mission next year that will see them deployed

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00:01:03,370 --> 00:01:08,530

from a rocket during a cargo resupply mission to the International Space Station.

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00:01:08,530 --> 00:01:13,400

The cubesats were designed and built by different teams, including one made of high school students

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00:01:13,400 --> 00:01:19,300

from Florida. The students went through the same processes NASA developed during decades of cutting

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00:01:19,300 --> 00:01:21,800

edge space missions.

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00:01:21,800 --> 00:01:25,490

So even though the booster's flight didn't go exactly as planned, the engineers

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00:01:25,490 --> 00:01:30,190

were still able to recover their payloads and record important data.

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00:01:30,190 --> 00:01:35,780

By trying out experimental systems on small, inexpensive satellites, NASA hopes to show spacecraft

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00:01:35,780 --> 00:01:41,080

designers better ways to build other satellites.

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00:01:41,080 --> 00:01:50,870

Finally, closer to home, the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex lifted the curtain on the

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00:01:50,870 --> 00:01:58,500

Space Shuttle Atlantis exhibit. Atlantis, the final shuttle to fly in space in 2011,

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00:01:58,500 --> 00:02:05,030

is depicted as it was in orbit, with its cargo bay doors open and robotic arm extended.

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00:02:05,030 --> 00:02:12,480

Bob Cabana: "It's my hope that some young boy or girl is going to see Atlantis in there during one of

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00:02:12,480 --> 00:02:18,750

their visits, and it's going to put that spark in them. That spark to say, 'I want to fly, I want to be an

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00:02:18,750 --> 00:02:21,100

astronaut, I want to explore."

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00:02:21,100 --> 00:02:26,890

Surrounded by a theater, dozens of shuttle-era artifacts and scores of simulators,