



Henry May

Commerical Crew Program Launch Vehicle Systems Lead

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00:00:17,640 --> 00:00:21,140

\h MAY: I grew up in southern California at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

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00:00:21,140 --> 00:00:24,740

\h Then my father moved the family to Merritt Island when he went to work at

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00:00:24,740 --> 00:00:27,910

\h Kennedy Space Center working on the Apollo Program.

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00:00:27,910 --> 00:00:32,610

\h I think what mostly inspired me was when my dad would call home and

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00:00:32,610 --> 00:00:37,050

\h tell us about the rocket launches that were going off when I was small.

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00:00:37,050 --> 00:00:40,430

\h I remember running into the backyard and looking up the sky and

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00:00:40,430 --> 00:00:44,270

\h seeing these little contrails of smoke and fire going off

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00:00:44,270 --> 00:00:47,360

\h and being so excited that it was happening so close to our home.

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00:00:47,360 --> 00:00:52,210

\h I started working at Kennedy Space Center fresh out of high school as an 18-years-old,

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00:00:52,210 --> 00:00:56,670

\h wet behind the ears, tile technician on the space shuttle.

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00:00:56,670 --> 00:01:02,070

\h I started here in 1979 as one of the first tile technicians working on

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00:01:02,070 --> 00:01:05,280

\h Columbia prior to the first space shuttle flight.

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00:01:05,280 --> 00:01:09,280

\h Working in the Commercial Crew Program is a thrill for me.

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00:01:09,280 --> 00:01:16,300

\h I'm inspired to work with these people. We have people from multiple backgrounds, different programs.

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00:01:16,300 --> 00:01:20,160

\h And the technical skills that they bring, and it just amazes me.

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00:01:20,160 --> 00:01:25,380

\h We're working on the Commercial Crew Integrated Capability portion of our program.

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00:01:25,380 --> 00:01:29,230

\h This is where providers come to us with a integrated capability for a

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00:01:29,230 --> 00:01:34,180

\h transportation system being the spacecraft and the launch vehicle.

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00:01:34,180 --> 00:01:37,040

\h The launch vehicle being the booster portion of it.

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00:01:37,040 --> 00:01:44,890

\h I work with the Boeing team consisting of the CST-100 crew module and the Atlas V launch vehicles.

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00:01:44,890 --> 00:01:49,800

\h The second team is Sierra Nevada. They're proposing to fly the Dream Chaser,

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00:01:49,800 --> 00:01:53,760

\h a winged spacecraft on an Atlas V launch vehicle booster.

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00:01:53,760 --> 00:02:01,800

\h And the third team is SpaceX. They're proposing to fly a Dragon spacecraft on a Falcon 9 launch vehicle

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00:02:01,800 --> 00:02:06,040

\h All three of these teams are competing. I know we're gonna get there and provide

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00:02:06,040 --> 00:02:12,620

\h this capability to get our crew to the space station and return them safely to the Earth.

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00:02:12,620 --> 00:02:15,600

\h I think when I witness the first commercial crew flight,

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00:02:15,600 --> 00:02:19,760

\h it's going to be awe-inspiring. It's gonna be the handing of the baton from

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00:02:19,760 --> 00:02:24,360

\h the government to industry to take on this responsibility,

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00:02:24,360 --> 00:02:31,970

\h similar to back in the early days of airline traffic and commercial passenger flights from New York to LA

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00:02:31,970 --> 00:02:37,300

\h Now instead of from New York to LA, you're going to be flying from the Earth's surface to the space station

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00:02:37,300 --> 00:02:41,200

\h The Commercial Crew Program is a paradigm shift for NASA.

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00:02:41,200 --> 00:02:45,450

\h We're working with the industry partners to purchase a ride.

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00:02:45,450 --> 00:02:48,330

\h Which will allow us to have

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00:02:48,330 --> 00:02:52,190

\h the resources that we need to do those real difficult tasks we have envisioned for the future,

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00:02:52,190 --> 00:02:55,630

\h the asteroid mission and going to Mars and those kinds of things.

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00:02:55,630 --> 00:03:01,790

\h I think the opportunities for young kids nowadays, in regards of spaceflight, is endless.

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00:03:01,790 --> 00:03:05,850

\h When I was growing up, in order to be an astronaut, you had to be a fighter pilot,

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00:03:05,850 --> 00:03:09,640

\h you had to come out of the military, you had to have these special skills.