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00:00:07,540 --> 00:00:13,670

NASA's Orion spacecraft is designed to send astronauts on exploration missions into deep

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00:00:13,670 --> 00:00:14,670

space.

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00:00:14,670 --> 00:00:19,980

Closer to Earth, orbiting about 250 miles up, NASA is using the International Space

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00:00:19,980 --> 00:00:25,110

Station to conduct cutting edge research and technology development and to increase our

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00:00:25,110 --> 00:00:30,779

knowledge about what it takes to live and work for long periods of time in space.

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00:00:30,779 --> 00:00:36,340

Currently, the six crew members of the space station travel to and from the orbiting laboratory

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00:00:36,340 --> 00:00:39,180

in Russian Soyuz spacecraft.

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00:00:39,180 --> 00:00:44,090

NASA's Commercial Crew Program is spearheading the development of a U.S. commercial crew

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00:00:44,090 --> 00:00:50,150

space transportation capability that provides safe, reliable and cost-effective access to

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00:00:50,150 --> 00:00:54,650

and from the International Space Station in low-Earth orbit.

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00:00:54,650 --> 00:01:00,690

In September, NASA selected two commercial providers, Boeing and SpaceX, to develop the

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00:01:00,690 --> 00:01:05,990

systems to transport astronauts from U.S. soil to and from the space station using the

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00:01:05,990 --> 00:01:12,110

company's Boeing CST-100 and SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft.

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00:01:12,110 --> 00:01:16,380

These new American spacecraft also will allow us to add a seventh crew member to the space

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00:01:16,380 --> 00:01:21,070

station and double the amount of time the crew has to conduct research aboard the unique

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00:01:21,070 --> 00:01:24,360

microgravity laboratory.

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00:01:24,360 --> 00:01:29,430

Certifying and using U.S. commercial companies' spacecraft to provide transportation services

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00:01:29,430 --> 00:01:35,130

to low-Earth orbit allows NASA to expand its focus to even more ambitious missions . . . sending

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00:01:35,130 --> 00:01:40,049

astronauts to explore an asteroid, learning in the proving ground of space around the

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00:01:40,049 --> 00:01:41,049

moon.

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00:01:41,049 --> 00:01:46,600

Ultimately NASA's Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft, and the skills and techniques

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00:01:46,600 --> 00:01:51,920

learned in lunar orbit will enable humans
to explore Mars.

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00:01:51,920 --> 00:01:57,420

We are going to different exploration destinations,
so we need different systems.

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00:01:57,420 --> 00:02:03,600

NASA will own and operate its Orion spacecraft
and Space Launch System for deep-space missions

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00:02:03,600 --> 00:02:09,820

and will purchase services from Boeing and
SpaceX to get astronauts to and from the station.