1
00:00:02,834 --> 00:00:07,700
NASA Commentator:
Piercing the pre-dawn skies, the space shuttle announcing its arrival at the launch site

2
00:00:07,900 --> 00:00:12,334
with the signature sound of twin sonic booms having gone subsonic for the last time.

3
00:00:15,300 --> 00:00:22,300
Having fired the imagination of a generation, a ship like no other, its place in history secured,

4
00:00:22,800 --> 00:00:25,254
the space shuttle pulls into port for the last time.

5
00:00:30,199 --> 00:00:35,660
Humanity has left Earth many times before
from our Florida shoreline.

6
00:00:35,660 --> 00:00:40,629
Some of the most inspiring missions of adventure
began here at Kennedy Space Center and would

7
00:00:40,629 --> 00:00:43,930
not have been successful without our hard
work.

8
00:00:43,930 --> 00:00:49,829
That work and expertise will always be a hallmark
of our efforts here, though we are retooling

9
00:00:49,829 --> 00:00:51,870
for the future.

10
00:00:51,870 --> 00:00:55,420
Kennedy helped America take important steps
before and now . . .

11
00:00:55,420 --> 00:00:58,649
KELVIN MANNING
We are getting ready to make our next giant

12
00:00:58,649 --> 00:00:59,360
leap!

13
00:00:59,360 --> 00:01:03,159
MANNING:
We are remaking NASA's Kennedy Space Center

14
00:01:03,159 --> 00:01:07,150
into the world's premiere multi-user spaceport.

15
00:01:07,150 --> 00:01:13,159
Ultimately, launching missions beyond low-earth
orbit and taking people to destinations far

16
00:01:13,159 --> 00:01:17,119
beyond anywhere humans have gone before.

17
00:01:17,119 --> 00:01:20,540
JANET PETRO:
Making un-needed facilities available to the

18
00:01:20,540 --> 00:01:24,439
commercial space industry is one of the best
ways to enable this new industry.

19
00:01:24,439 --> 00:01:29,729
We are also making the Kennedy Space Center
more accessible to the entrepreneurs who are

20
00:01:29,729 --> 00:01:33,549
already driving the next space age.

21
00:01:33,549 --> 00:01:37,479
NARRATOR:
It began with opening up facilities at Kennedy

22
00:01:37,479 --> 00:01:41,479
to requests that would use them in new and

different ways.

23
00:01:41,479 --> 00:01:46,899
A team from Johnson Space Center is using
a lunar simulation field to make free flights

24
00:01:46,899 --> 00:01:52,369
of an autonomous lander at the shuttle runway.
Aerospace companies are exploring the iconic

25
00:01:52,369 --> 00:01:58,079
facility as the starting point and finish
line of suborbital missions carrying experiments

26
00:01:58,079 --> 00:02:00,490
and paying passengers into weightlessness.

27
00:02:00,490 --> 00:02:03,959
PETRO:
No one has ever tried to repurpose a major

28
00:02:03,959 --> 00:02:09,250
installation like the Kennedy Space Center,
but we are getting it done.

29
00:02:09,250 --> 00:02:09,249
.

30
00:02:09,250 --> 00:02:14,140
NARRATOR:
Up at Launch Complex 39 and the Vehicle Assembly

31
00:02:14,140 --> 00:02:19,709
Building area, crews got to work replacing
infrastructure that was installed at the beginning

32
00:02:19,709 --> 00:02:24,319
of the Space Age.
The computers, wiring and cabling were cutting

33
00:02:24,319 --> 00:02:28,099
edge 50 years ago, and got America to the
moon.

34
00:02:28,099 --> 00:02:33,069
Now though, the equipment was worn and obsolete.
NARRATOR:

35
00:02:33,069 --> 00:02:38,239
The changes reached deep into the heart of
the landmark Vehicle Assembly Building. Rusted

36
00:02:38,239 --> 00:02:44,269
pipes, corroded cables, antiquated data and
electrical wiring were (or are being) removed.

37
00:02:44,269 --> 00:02:49,090
Fashioning the crown jewel of the Kennedy
Space Center into a facility capable of assembling

38
00:02:49,090 --> 00:02:54,400
the next generation of American rockets, for
both private companies and NASA missions.

39
00:02:54,400 --> 00:02:55,959
SCOTT THURSTON:
ON CAMERA

40
00:02:55,959 --> 00:03:01,950
NASA began work on the Space Launch System
design. A gigantic rocket capable of taking

41
00:03:01,950 --> 00:03:05,659
our astronauts far beyond low Earth orbit.

42
00:03:05,659 --> 00:03:11,319
With this 32-story super-rocket being built
in the spirit of the Saturn V, we knew we

43

00:03:11,319 --> 00:03:16,719
would be looking again at reaching far out
into space. Asteroids and Mars are suddenly

44
00:03:16,719 --> 00:03:17,870
within reach.

45
00:03:17,870 --> 00:03:21,489
But we knew it would also take a special launch
complex to handle it.

46
00:03:21,489 --> 00:03:28,489
We didn't have to look far for the foundation.
Launch Complex 39B, right here.

47
00:03:29,099 --> 00:03:32,689
NARRATOR:
Cranes and workers descended on Launch Complex

48
00:03:32,689 --> 00:03:35,549
39B and began their critical work.

49
00:03:35,549 --> 00:03:39,930
They took down the fixed service structure
and rotating service structure built for the

50
00:03:39,930 --> 00:03:40,650
space shuttle.

51
00:03:40,650 --> 00:03:46,540
The salt air on the coast of Atlantic Ocean
took its toll on the proud structures, but

52
00:03:46,540 --> 00:03:49,459
workers soon took to restoring their glory.

53
00:03:49,459 --> 00:03:55,730
They sandblasted fuel and support lines that
ran from storage tanks to the pad and to the

54
00:03:55,730 --> 00:03:56,459
spacecraft.

55
00:03:56,459 --> 00:04:02,760
As in the VAB, conduits and cables were torn
out and replaced with modern electronics and

56
00:04:02,760 --> 00:04:06,790
capabilities undreamt of previously.

57
00:04:06,790 --> 00:04:10,969
SCOTT WILSON:
While they are getting ready for our new rocket,

58
00:04:10,969 --> 00:04:14,260
engineers and technicians at the other end
of the space center, in a place we call the

59
00:04:14,260 --> 00:04:18,650
Operations and Checkout Building, are getting
ready for a new spacecraft.

60
00:04:18,650 --> 00:04:23,180
This is the high bay, the pristine work area
where engineers and technicians just finished

61
00:04:23,180 --> 00:04:25,250
assembling the Orion spacecraft for its first
test.

62
00:04:25,250 --> 00:04:28,280
It's kind of a garage for space ships.

63
00:04:28,280 --> 00:04:32,650
Remember that part about making the VAB able
to handle more than one rocket and spacecraft?

64
00:04:32,650 --> 00:04:34,340
That's what we're doing here, too.

65
00:04:34,340 --> 00:04:39,150
Lockheed Martin, who assembled Orion, can
use this assembly area on other spacecraft

66
00:04:39,150 --> 00:04:43,570
when it's not working on an Orion.

67
00:04:43,570 --> 00:04:47,450
TIM DUNN
It's good to think about the future and make

68
00:04:47,450 --> 00:04:53,040
plans, but all of us out here knew we had
to keep doing what we are here for, too. Launching

69
00:04:53,040 --> 00:04:55,040
rockets.
TIM DUNN

70
00:04:55,040 --> 00:04:59,040
Although the shuttle retired, NASA never stopped
exploring.

71
00:04:59,040 --> 00:05:02,480
In fact, in many ways we picked up the pace.

72
00:05:02,480 --> 00:05:08,270
We launched the huge Juno spacecraft to Jupiter,
the first probe dispatched to the gas giant

73
00:05:08,270 --> 00:05:14,200
since NASA's Galileo in 1989.

74
00:05:14,200 --> 00:05:19,190
Kennedy's teams continued going to Vandenberg
Air Force Base to launch Earth-observing missions.

75
00:05:19,190 --> 00:05:24,860

And no one will ever forget the Curiosity
rover we launched to Mars. Right now, that

76
00:05:24,860 --> 00:05:30,570
car-sized laboratory is traversing the rust-colored
soil of the red planet unlocking geologic

77
00:05:30,570 --> 00:05:37,570
mysteries we didn't even know to ask about.
NARRATOR:

78
00:05:46,160 --> 00:05:51,280
Cargo resupply missions launching from Florida
gave Kennedy its first look at its spaceport

79
00:05:51,280 --> 00:05:53,290
destiny.

80
00:05:53,290 --> 00:05:59,100
Rockets and spacecraft built by private companies
went from experimental to operational. Their

81
00:05:59,100 --> 00:06:01,570
launches became common sights.

82
00:06:01,570 --> 00:06:07,700
Aboard the space station, crew members were
able to unpack the cargo craft to find supplies

83
00:06:07,700 --> 00:06:10,890
and the all-important scientific experiments
they would operate.

84
00:06:10,890 --> 00:06:15,620
The space station's needs are also driving
a new approach to doing business with America's

85
00:06:15,620 --> 00:06:16,550
aerospace firms.

86
00:06:16,550 --> 00:06:18,710
An approach that is presenting Kennedy with
new opportunities.

87
00:06:18,710 --> 00:06:20,940
Kathy Lueders
We've spent three years in close partnership

88
00:06:20,940 --> 00:06:25,260
with some of the industry's largest companies
and most-promising start-ups to design the

89
00:06:25,260 --> 00:06:29,920
next generation of spacecraft that will carry
our astronauts to low-Earth orbit.

90
00:06:29,920 --> 00:06:34,750
Bob Cabana
We've made the initial transition to become

91
00:06:34,750 --> 00:06:39,260
a multi-user spaceport, but we still have
a ways to go to fully implement our vision.

92
00:06:39,260 --> 00:06:44,550
We are solidifying our position as America's
preeminent spaceport, supporting both government

93
00:06:44,550 --> 00:06:50,150
and commercial launches, to and from low earth
orbit, and beyond. A spaceport worthy of all