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00:00:00,510 --> 00:00:07,099

The Hubble Space Telescope earned its status as a crown jewel of American scientific prowess

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00:00:07,099 --> 00:00:19,600

through the hard work and ingenuity of people across NASA's network of field centers.

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The story of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope began with astronomers imagining what the

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view of space must be like from a perch above the Earth's atmosphere.

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NASA field centers set to work on the telescope.

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Goddard applied its astronomical knowhow to the design and Johnson Space Center developed

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00:00:38,539 --> 00:00:43,239

the processes that would be used in space to deploy the Hubble.

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At Kennedy Space Center, the utmost care and cleanliness was demanded throughout the lengthy

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and complicated launch processing steps.

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00:00:51,989 --> 00:00:59,789

Five astronauts would liftoff on Discovery on April 24, 1990, to an orbit some 380 miles

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above Earth.

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The crew, which included would-be NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, used the shuttle's robotic

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arm to grab the 25,000-pound observatory and release it to fly free.

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Kennedy became the port of departure three years later for another highly sensitive,

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Hubble-related payload, this one a set of new instruments including one called COSTAR

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that acted as a contact lens to clear up a mirror aberration that produced blurred imagery.

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At Kennedy, four more servicing missions were processed for shuttle launches.

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Astronauts routinely donned their spacesuits and worked in the vacuum of space to upgrade

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Hubble instruments and replace worn components.

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The payoff has been a gallery of photos and images as meaningful to artists as astronomers.

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For Kennedy, the chance to host Hubble for its last time on Earth and then prepare the

