



1

00:00:16,560 --> 00:00:22,460

NASA will close 2015 with a mission that will accomplish a number of firsts and reestablish

2

00:00:22,460 --> 00:00:25,720

a crucial supply link to the International Space Station.

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00:00:25,720 --> 00:00:31,269

A Cygnus spacecraft larger than those that have flown before has been loaded with 7,383

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00:00:31,269 --> 00:00:38,260

pounds of materials the residents of the station will need to conduct important research and

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00:00:38,260 --> 00:00:40,969

operate the orbiting laboratory.

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00:00:40,969 --> 00:00:46,719

Built by Orbital ATK, the enhanced Cygnus, as the spacecraft is called, boasts several

7

00:00:46,719 --> 00:00:52,590

upgrades including improved avionics and lighter solar arrays that generate as much power as

8

00:00:52,590 --> 00:00:55,180

their predecessors.

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00:00:55,180 --> 00:01:00,219

The spacecraft carries no astronauts but will fly autonomously to the space station. When

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00:01:00,219 --> 00:01:05,290

in range, the astronauts will reach out with the station's robot arm and pull the Cygnus

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00:01:05,290 --> 00:01:08,170

to a port where the crew can unpack it.

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00:01:08,170 --> 00:01:14,960

Orbital ATK's Dan Tani, a former station astronaut, spoke recently about the value of cargo arrivals.

13

00:01:14,960 --> 00:01:15,960

DAN TANI

(1:52 – 2:06)

14

00:01:15,960 --> 00:01:21,330

Of course, it's a real morale boost, you know. It's like coming home from the store and unpacking

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00:01:21,330 --> 00:01:26,180

the trunk full of all the stuff that you bought, a lot of stuff you didn't know you needed,

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00:01:26,180 --> 00:01:29,860

but a lot of stuff like notes from home and things that are really meaningful.

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00:01:29,860 --> 00:01:32,850

NARRATOR:

A United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 rocket will

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00:01:32,850 --> 00:01:38,920

lift the Cygnus into orbit from Cape Canaveral's Space Launch Complex 41. A workhorse rocket,

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00:01:38,920 --> 00:01:43,430

the Atlas V has never launched a station-bound payload before.

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00:01:43,430 --> 00:01:48,630

For NASA, the mission represents a return to American cargo resupply missions that allow

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00:01:48,630 --> 00:01:54,689

the station residents to perform science experiments

in a unique environment off the earth to benefit

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00:01:54,689 --> 00:01:55,970

all those on the earth.

23

00:01:55,970 --> 00:02:02,439

As astronaut Scott Kelly continues his own
record-setting yearlong mission, the supplies