



Astronauts Mark Launch Structure Milestone

Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla

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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,820

NARRATOR:

The addition of a 650-pound beam marked the

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00:00:03,820 --> 00:00:09,010

topping off of a new, human-rated crew access
tower at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station

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00:00:09,010 --> 00:00:15,290

on Dec. 10 during a ceremony attended by NASA's
four Commercial Crew astronauts.

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00:00:15,290 --> 00:00:21,199

Hundreds of employees and managers took part
in the ceremony at Space Launch Complex 41.

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00:00:21,199 --> 00:00:27,029

The tower is designed to give astronauts and
ground support staff access to the Boeing

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00:00:27,029 --> 00:00:33,380

CST-100 Starliner spacecraft as it stands
on the launch pad before liftoff on a United

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00:00:33,380 --> 00:00:35,460

Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket.

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00:00:35,460 --> 00:00:37,500

BOB BEHNKEN:

We also have the opportunity with a visit

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00:00:37,500 --> 00:00:41,960

like this to talk to the folks that are putting
it together and re-emphasize to them that

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00:00:41,960 --> 00:00:45,800

this is a little bit different than the launch
hardware maybe they put together in the past

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00:00:45,800 --> 00:00:51,399

because there are people who will be using it to ride into space. So things they do today

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00:00:51,399 --> 00:00:53,809

will have consequences years from now.

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00:00:53,809 --> 00:00:58,559

ERIC BOE:

You look at the structure, there's mass science,

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00:00:58,559 --> 00:01:02,609

engineering and hard work that make all this happen and so that's the things that we're

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00:01:02,609 --> 00:01:06,869

emphasizing, that it will be nice to get the rocket on the pad with this structure here

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00:01:06,869 --> 00:01:10,640

and then have it where we're launching into orbit from the United States again with manned

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00:01:10,640 --> 00:01:12,470

crews so we're really looking forward to it.

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00:01:12,470 --> 00:01:15,119

NARRATOR:

NASA's Commercial Crew Program is working

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00:01:15,119 --> 00:01:20,400

in partnerships with Boeing and SpaceX to develop the next generation of American-made

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00:01:20,400 --> 00:01:25,430

spacecraft that will launch astronauts to the International Space Station from Florida

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00:01:25,430 --> 00:01:28,200

beginning in 2017.

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00:01:28,200 --> 00:01:33,130
Prior to the ceremony at Cape Canaveral, the astronauts toured the Crew Access Arm and

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00:01:33,130 --> 00:01:36,070
White Room they will use as they climb into the Starliner.

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00:01:36,070 --> 00:01:42,020
Mounted on a stand identical to the top of the Crew Access Tower, the 90,000-pound arm

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00:01:42,020 --> 00:01:47,970
and White Room will undergo months of testing to make sure the machinery will work right

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00:01:47,970 --> 00:01:49,250
on launch day.

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00:01:49,250 --> 00:01:54,960
It is the first new crew access structure to be built at Cape Canaveral since the 1960s.

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00:01:54,960 --> 00:01:58,060
DOUG HURLEY:
It's just so neat to see the progress that

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00:01:58,060 --> 00:02:03,320
they've made already and it's just one more step in getting us to back to flying from

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00:02:03,320 --> 00:02:04,320
the U.S.

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00:02:04,320 --> 00:02:07,189
SUNI WILLIAMS:
So it's really exciting to be here and imagine