1
00:00:03,470 --> 00:00:04,470
Stephanie Martin: Thanks!

2
00:00:04,470 --> 00:00:06,250
We are here at Space Launch Complex 41.

3
00:00:06,250 --> 00:00:09,620
As you can see, OSIRIS-REx is prepared for
launch just behind us.

4
00:00:09,620 --> 00:00:13,510
The launch pad here will be used for future
astronaut missions to the International Space

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00:00:13,510 --> 00:00:17,560
Station, as will SpaceX's Launch Pad 39A,
just a few miles north of us.

6
00:00:17,560 --> 00:00:20,849
I am here with NASA's Jon Cowart with the
Commercial Crew Program.

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00:00:20,849 --> 00:00:23,550
Jon, Can you tell us a little bit about the
Commercial Crew Program?

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00:00:23,550 --> 00:00:24,550
Jon Cowart: Sure.

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00:00:24,550 --> 00:00:28,980
The Commercial Crew Program is enabling private
companies, like SpaceX and Boeing, to take

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00:00:28,980 --> 00:00:30,970
astronauts to low-Earth orbit.

11
00:00:30,970 --> 00:00:36,180
What this will eventually do is allow them
to take anybody who qualifies to go up to

12
00:00:36,180 --> 00:00:40,590
low-Earth orbit to any station that might
be c4reated privately or anything else in

13
00:00:40,590 --> 00:00:41,590
low-Earth orbit.

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00:00:41,590 --> 00:00:44,570
It is really enabling a great capability for
the United States.

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00:00:44,570 --> 00:00:48,120
Martin: So, there has been a lot work here
along the Space Coast to prepare for Commercial

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00:00:48,120 --> 00:00:49,120
Crew.

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00:00:49,120 --> 00:00:50,120
Can you tell us what is happening?

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00:00:50,120 --> 00:00:51,120
Cowart: Oh sure.

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00:00:51,120 --> 00:00:53,220
Well first of all a lot of things are going
on and we will start here at SLC-41.

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00:00:53,220 --> 00:00:57,400
What you see behind us here is a launch pad
for an Atlas rocket.

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00:00:57,400 --> 00:00:59,520
This one is going to carry OSIRIS-REx.

22
00:00:59,520 --> 00:01:03,500
But in the future you see that new structure,
for the viewers if you look just to the right

23
00:01:03,500 --> 00:01:08,270
of the rocket, you will see a tower that has
been built just for crew access exclusively.

24
00:01:08,270 --> 00:01:11,330
This is going to allow astronauts to go up
to the top and you will see a little white

25
00:01:11,330 --> 00:01:13,130
room off to one side of it.

26
00:01:13,130 --> 00:01:16,450
That is where they are going to board rocket
that will take them up into space.

27
00:01:16,450 --> 00:01:18,360
Now that is what's going on here at SLC-41.

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00:01:18,360 --> 00:01:23,510
Over at what we call the C3PF, they are actually
building what Boeing calls the Starliner.

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00:01:23,510 --> 00:01:27,610
This is their CST-100, it used to be called
that and now it's the Starliner, and that's

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00:01:27,610 --> 00:01:29,470
actually going to carry the astronauts.

31
00:01:29,470 --> 00:01:33,400
And so for SpaceX, right up the road in this
direction, they have been modifying the old

32
00:01:33,400 --> 00:01:35,200
LC-39A.

33
00:01:35,200 --> 00:01:39,330
And what they have done is they have built

their horizontal integration building.

34
00:01:39,330 --> 00:01:41,410
They are modifying the tower.

35
00:01:41,410 --> 00:01:46,230
They have a crew access arm, also in work
that they will be installing later this year.

36
00:01:46,230 --> 00:01:49,869
Doing a lot of check out
And, of course, they are modifying their cargo

37
00:01:49,869 --> 00:01:54,920
Dragon spacecraft, making it into a Crew Dragon
and that is happening largely out of Hawthorne,

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00:01:54,920 --> 00:01:57,119
so there is all kinds of activities going
on.

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00:01:57,119 --> 00:02:00,520
Martin: I have heard that there are benefits
for the Commercial Crew Program, both for

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00:02:00,520 --> 00:02:02,840
the nation and the International Space Station.

41
00:02:02,840 --> 00:02:04,409
Can you tell us a little more?

42
00:02:04,409 --> 00:02:06,410
Cowart: The benefits are fantastic.

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00:02:06,410 --> 00:02:12,150
The Journey to Mars is going to take a dedicated
team and that dedicated team can now focus

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00:02:12,150 --> 00:02:13,150

on that task.

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00:02:13,150 --> 00:02:17,170
They don’t have to worry about getting stuff
to low-Earth orbit, which is where Commercial

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00:02:17,170 --> 00:02:18,170
Crew comes in.

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00:02:18,170 --> 00:02:22,620
We are going to enable that capability and
free those folks up to worry about deep space

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00:02:22,620 --> 00:02:27,140
and we are going to worry about getting things
to low-Earth orbit using SpaceX and Boeing.

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00:02:27,140 --> 00:02:31,760
This allows the money to be spent more on
the deep space stuff, which we care deeply

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00:02:31,760 --> 00:02:32,760
about.

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00:02:32,760 --> 00:02:34,150
We all want to get to Mars at some point!

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00:02:34,150 --> 00:02:38,890
So, that is the real thing, it frees up some
money and also allows a dedicated team to

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00:02:38,890 --> 00:02:40,520
go do that very important work.

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00:02:40,520 --> 00:02:41,520
Martin: Perfect.

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00:02:41,520 --> 00:02:45,300
Now, my last question for you is there is

a lot of talk about research.

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00:02:45,300 --> 00:02:49,270
We know that these vehicles will carry a fourth
astronaut, who will be able to almost double

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00:02:49,270 --> 00:02:51,970
the amount of time dedicated to scientific
research.

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00:02:51,970 --> 00:02:53,410
What does that mean for our Journey to Mars?

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00:02:53,410 --> 00:02:56,280
Cowart: Oh, that is going to enable us to
learn so much more.

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00:02:56,280 --> 00:03:00,500
Like you were indicating, right now on the
station they spend a lot of their time doing

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00:03:00,500 --> 00:03:02,200
maintenance and things like that.

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00:03:02,200 --> 00:03:05,480
When we can get these folks carrying up four
(people) at a time we are going to get more

63
00:03:05,480 --> 00:03:06,480
research.