

BEHIND THE PLATFORM MILESTONE



1
00:00:03,929 --> 00:00:05,920

It's a huge day for us.

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00:00:05,920 --> 00:00:09,389

We've been working on installing these platforms for the last year.

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00:00:09,389 --> 00:00:15,209

You know, the mission to Mars starts here at the Kennedy Space Center and specifically

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00:00:15,209 --> 00:00:18,230

right here in the Vehicle Assembly Building.

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00:00:18,230 --> 00:00:21,340

We've installed 19 of the 20 platform halves.

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00:00:21,340 --> 00:00:22,970

Today we're installing the last one.

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00:00:22,970 --> 00:00:27,250

It truly is a magnificent accomplishment when you think about what this building, what this

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00:00:27,250 --> 00:00:29,290

structure's going to be used for.

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00:00:29,290 --> 00:00:33,440

We're going to assemble, test and check out the planet's largest launch vehicle and this

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00:00:33,440 --> 00:00:38,660

launch vehicle will eventually take humans beyond the moon, all the way to Mars.

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00:00:38,660 --> 00:00:44,610

The platforms are strategically located at different elevations on the rocket and spacecraft

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00:00:44,610 --> 00:00:51,010
to allow people -- technicians and engineers
-- to get access to the different levels of

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00:00:51,010 --> 00:00:53,739
the rocket and the spacecraft.

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00:00:53,739 --> 00:01:00,750
Whether it's wrench-turning, plugging in electrical
equipment, fluid lines, from the mobile launch

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00:01:00,750 --> 00:01:05,140
platform as well as from the vehicle itself.

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00:01:05,140 --> 00:01:11,280
The platforms will come together and surround
the vehicle that will provide access to the

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00:01:11,280 --> 00:01:19,710
operations people to be able to install and
test and do all the connections that are required

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00:01:19,710 --> 00:01:23,450
in order to get the vehicle ready for launch
next year.

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00:01:23,450 --> 00:01:32,520
I feel amazingly proud of being able to lead
this group of people who are so experienced

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00:01:32,520 --> 00:01:38,180
and so dedicated to the work that we have
here.

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00:01:38,180 --> 00:01:42,770
Four years ago we had PowerPoint drawings
of what this was going to look like.

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00:01:42,770 --> 00:01:46,229

We went through the design process, we went through the construction process, and now

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00:01:46,229 --> 00:01:48,370

we're installing the very last platform half.

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00:01:48,370 --> 00:01:51,970

It's really an incredible accomplishment, something this program, this entire center,

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00:01:51,970 --> 00:01:55,220

the agency, should be very proud of.

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00:01:55,220 --> 00:02:01,940

It takes a lot of effort, you know, to follow day by day such a complex project -- a project

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00:02:01,940 --> 00:02:06,810

that's being put together from all parts of the country.

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00:02:06,810 --> 00:02:11,909

There's all pieces of this platform that do come from all parts of the country.

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00:02:11,909 --> 00:02:16,889

And this is really only made possible by the incredible teams we have working this project.

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00:02:16,889 --> 00:02:22,439

The NASA folks, the support contractors, the construction contractors, the designers -- all

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00:02:22,439 --> 00:02:26,969

these people had to work together to accomplish this magnificent achievement.

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00:02:26,969 --> 00:02:31,090

It's an integrated team across KSC starting with NASA, TOSC, ISC, IMCS, KPLSS, we're

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00:02:31,090 --> 00:02:32,200

all base contractors here and we all have a vital part in bringing this program up and

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00:02:32,200 --> 00:02:40,290

running and getting it ready to process the SLS rocket.

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00:02:40,290 --> 00:02:45,860

Foster: We cherish these big milestones.

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00:02:45,860 --> 00:02:52,159

We have a lot of them that lead up to the final day of, at least for us and the development

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00:02:52,159 --> 00:02:55,290

side, it's turning it over to operations and ultimately launch day.

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00:02:55,290 --> 00:03:00,299

Quinn: When I came to work for NASA 30 years ago, I wanted to work for a project like this.

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00:03:00,299 --> 00:03:04,510

Christ: From Apollo to shuttle, and now to the SLS program, this is very much the beginning