



T- 00:40:20
SPACEX CREW DEMO-1

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00:00:00,130 --> 00:00:03,520

Stephanie Martin: Let's go quickly over to Derrol Nail, who has a special guest at

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00:00:03,520 --> 00:00:04,930

the Operations and Support Building.

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00:00:04,930 --> 00:00:06,240

Derrol Nail: That's right, Stephanie.

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00:00:06,240 --> 00:00:11,230

I'm on the fifth floor of that building, which gives us an elevated view of the launch

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00:00:11,230 --> 00:00:16,630

pad, and you can see we can see the rocket from top to bottom, including the flame trench.

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00:00:16,630 --> 00:00:18,650

It is a beautiful view out here.

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00:00:18,650 --> 00:00:22,150

And then we stretch out a little further, and you can see the guests that have gathered

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00:00:22,150 --> 00:00:23,249

in the infield.

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00:00:23,249 --> 00:00:25,720

They have quite a view as well.

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00:00:25,720 --> 00:00:29,740

This building is also right next to the iconic Vehicle Assembly Building, which is the perfect

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00:00:29,740 --> 00:00:34,140

backdrop for our guest, as you mentioned, Administrator Jim Bridenstine.

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00:00:34,140 --> 00:00:35,570

Thank you for being here, appreciate your time.

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00:00:35,570 --> 00:00:36,570

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine: Thanks, Derrol.

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00:00:36,570 --> 00:00:37,570

Great to be here.

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00:00:37,570 --> 00:00:39,610

Derrol: First of all, tell me what this launch means to you.

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00:00:39,610 --> 00:00:40,610

What does it mean to the country?

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00:00:40,610 --> 00:00:45,370

Jim: So, this is the first time where we're going to launch American astronauts on American

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00:00:45,370 --> 00:00:47,350

rockets from American soil.

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00:00:47,350 --> 00:00:53,790

The first time since the retirement of the space shuttles in 2011, so this is really

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00:00:53,790 --> 00:00:58,720

a significant achievement in the history of American spaceflight.

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00:00:58,720 --> 00:01:03,420

And what we're interested in, we want to make sure that we keep our partnership with

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00:01:03,420 --> 00:01:07,229

Russia, which has been very strong for a long

period of time, going all the way back to

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00:01:07,229 --> 00:01:11,329
the Apollo-Soyuz era, but we also want to
make sure we have our own capability to get

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00:01:11,329 --> 00:01:15,520
back and forth to the International Space
Station so that we can have this strong partnership

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00:01:15,520 --> 00:01:18,740
where they can launch on our rockets and we
can launch on their rockets.

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00:01:18,740 --> 00:01:24,280
But, I think another big milestone here is
the idea that we're not, as an agency, as

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00:01:24,280 --> 00:01:28,679
NASA, we're not purchasing, owning and operating
our own rockets at this point.

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00:01:28,679 --> 00:01:34,119
We're looking to a future where we can be
a customer, one customer, of many customers

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00:01:34,119 --> 00:01:37,899
in a very robust, commercial marketplace in
low-Earth orbit.

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00:01:37,899 --> 00:01:41,600
And not just one customer of many customers,
which drives down our costs and increases

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00:01:41,600 --> 00:01:46,459
our access, but having multiple providers
that are competing on cost and innovation,

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00:01:46,459 --> 00:01:51,100
which enables us to have transformational

technologies that enable us to do more than

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00:01:51,100 --> 00:01:52,100
ever before.

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00:01:52,100 --> 00:01:53,149
So, this is really a big deal.

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00:01:53,149 --> 00:01:56,749
Derrol: And one of those customers, key customers,
SpaceX, which is launching tonight, you're

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00:01:56,749 --> 00:01:57,749
here for that launch.

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00:01:57,749 --> 00:02:01,060
You got to tour around today with SpaceX CO
Elon Musk.

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00:02:01,060 --> 00:02:02,060
How was that?

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00:02:02,060 --> 00:02:05,389
Jim: It was a great opportunity.

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00:02:05,389 --> 00:02:10,611
He reminded me that he began this process
18 years ago if you can imagine that, back

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00:02:10,611 --> 00:02:11,611
in 2001.

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00:02:11,611 --> 00:02:17,670
And at the time, the intent was to put a little
greenhouse on Mars.

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00:02:17,670 --> 00:02:22,870
He was going to purchase an excess ICBM from
Russia.

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00:02:22,870 --> 00:02:27,610
Of course, he made sure to make clear that
it was without the nuclear warhead.

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00:02:27,610 --> 00:02:34,300
But, what was fascinating is from that idea
where he wanted to put on Mars a little greenhouse,

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00:02:34,300 --> 00:02:39,740
we're talking about three feet by three
feet, just a small greenhouse, and from that,

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00:02:39,740 --> 00:02:42,890
he tried to buy this excess ICBM but it was
\$20 million.

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00:02:42,890 --> 00:02:48,550
He said, "I just can't afford that to
achieve what I'm trying to achieve," and

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00:02:48,550 --> 00:02:53,960
so, he came up with the idea of the Falcon
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00:02:53,960 --> 00:02:59,910
And after a number of failed launches, he
stuck with it, and by Falcon 4 it was successful.

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00:02:59,910 --> 00:03:04,310
And then of course, the partnership with NASA,
a long partnership that's been developing

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00:03:04,310 --> 00:03:08,970
for a long time, and here we are on the precipice
of returning to spaceflight from American

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00:03:08,970 --> 00:03:09,970
soil.

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00:03:09,970 --> 00:03:13,640

So, it was great to have that opportunity to hear his perspectives.

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00:03:13,640 --> 00:03:19,440

This is really a big day for NASA, it's a big day for SpaceX, Elon Musk and the entire

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00:03:19,440 --> 00:03:22,570

team, both teams, NASA and SpaceX.

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00:03:22,570 --> 00:03:24,460

Darrol: We're looking forward to a launch tonight.

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00:03:24,460 --> 00:03:28,050

We appreciate you coming out and joining us, it's going to be an exciting night.