

A man with a shaved head and clear safety glasses is speaking. He is wearing a blue button-down shirt and a lanyard. The background is a large industrial facility with complex machinery and a large curved structure.

Earl Benson  
Orbital ATK Quality Engineering Manager

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,394  
For the people involved in the

2  
00:00:06,429 --> 00:00:08,210  
test, it starts pretty darn

3  
00:00:08,245 --> 00:00:10,802  
early. In fact, it starts months

4  
00:00:10,837 --> 00:00:13,139  
beforehand with the arrival of

5  
00:00:13,174 --> 00:00:15,795  
the first segment into the bay.

6  
00:00:15,830 --> 00:00:18,235  
But the day of test, at T minus

7  
00:00:18,270 --> 00:00:20,507  
six, we'll make a "go-no go"

8  
00:00:20,542 --> 00:00:22,251  
decision on whether we're going

9  
00:00:22,286 --> 00:00:23,315  
to test for that day.

10  
00:00:23,350 --> 00:00:24,826  
We work with a great group of

11  
00:00:24,861 --> 00:00:26,522  
professionals — everything from

12  
00:00:26,557 --> 00:00:28,268  
our engineering staff, program

13  
00:00:28,303 --> 00:00:29,371

managers, our technicians....

14

00:00:29,406 --> 00:00:30,795

Everybody works great together

15

00:00:30,830 --> 00:00:32,739

to orchestrate this thing. And

16

00:00:32,774 --> 00:00:34,363

on static test day, when people

17

00:00:34,398 --> 00:00:35,859

show up down to the road to

18

00:00:35,894 --> 00:00:37,067

watch this test, it gives you a

19

00:00:37,102 --> 00:00:39,211

great sense of appreciation and

20

00:00:39,246 --> 00:00:41,042

gratitude — and a sense of

21

00:00:41,077 --> 00:00:41,898

pride.

22

00:00:41,933 --> 00:00:42,994

There's a coolness factor to

23

00:00:43,029 --> 00:00:44,690

this job. Being able to see

24

00:00:44,725 --> 00:00:46,939

every six months or a year the

25

00:00:46,974 --> 00:00:49,075

work you've done actually to see

26

00:00:49,110 --> 00:00:50,971

that event — that puts the

27

00:00:51,006 --> 00:00:52,227

exclamation point on everything

28

00:00:52,262 --> 00:00:53,595

you've worked on! Working with

29

00:00:53,630 --> 00:00:54,867

astronauts, working with the

30

00:00:54,902 --> 00:00:56,675

government — it's very

31

00:00:56,710 --> 00:00:57,603

fulfilling.

32

00:00:57,638 --> 00:00:59,066

I took a job at Orbital ATK and

33

00:00:59,101 --> 00:01:01,714

so I got to go down to the Cape

34

00:01:01,749 --> 00:01:03,971

for a launch. And at that time,

35

00:01:04,006 --> 00:01:05,195

we were nearing the end of the

36

00:01:05,230 --> 00:01:06,675

fly out of shuttle. I could see

37

00:01:06,710 --> 00:01:08,139

the two birds: the one sitting

38

00:01:08,174 --> 00:01:09,843

on the one pad and the other

39

00:01:09,878 --> 00:01:11,419

one, the recovery flight — just

40

00:01:11,454 --> 00:01:13,307

in case. And I thought to

41

00:01:13,342 --> 00:01:14,451

myself,

42

00:01:14,486 --> 00:01:15,763

“I would do this job for free.”

43

00:01:15,798 --> 00:01:16,835

I’m also the mother of a

44

00:01:16,870 --> 00:01:18,730

four-year-old. And there are

45

00:01:18,765 --> 00:01:20,306

only really two things that get

46

00:01:20,341 --> 00:01:22,451

kids excited about science: and

47

00:01:22,486 --> 00:01:25,787

that’s dinosaurs and space. And

48

00:01:25,822 --> 00:01:26,923

I’m not going to see another