

2165



1  
00:00:06,150 --> 00:00:03,189  
nasa mission controllers have not heard

2  
00:00:09,430 --> 00:00:06,160  
from the mars exploration rover spirit

3  
00:00:12,070 --> 00:00:09,440  
since march 22nd and the rover is facing

4  
00:00:14,709 --> 00:00:12,080  
its toughest challenge yet trying to

5  
00:00:17,189 --> 00:00:14,719  
survive the harsh martian winter

6  
00:00:20,150 --> 00:00:17,199  
the rover team anticipated spirit would

7  
00:00:22,470 --> 00:00:20,160  
go into a low power hibernation mode

8  
00:00:25,029 --> 00:00:22,480  
since it was not able to get a favorable

9  
00:00:27,509 --> 00:00:25,039  
slope for its fourth martian winter

10  
00:00:29,669 --> 00:00:27,519  
which runs from may through november

11  
00:00:31,990 --> 00:00:29,679  
the low angle of sunlight during these

12  
00:00:33,910 --> 00:00:32,000  
months limits the power generated from

13  
00:00:35,910 --> 00:00:33,920

the spirit solar panels

14

00:00:38,869 --> 00:00:35,920

during hibernation the rover suspends

15

00:00:41,350 --> 00:00:38,879

communications and other activities so

16

00:00:43,430 --> 00:00:41,360

available energy can be used to recharge

17

00:02:15,030 --> 00:00:43,440

and heat batteries and to keep the

18

00:02:17,750 --> 00:02:16,070

it's been

19

00:02:19,510 --> 00:02:17,760

in hibernation

20

00:02:22,710 --> 00:02:19,520

or frozen

21

00:02:25,110 --> 00:02:22,720

we don't know and we're now coming into

22

00:02:27,430 --> 00:02:25,120

more and more sunlight so spirit

23

00:02:29,350 --> 00:02:27,440

should be building its batteries and

24

00:02:30,229 --> 00:02:29,360

maybe we'll have the capability to talk

25

00:02:31,509 --> 00:02:30,239

to us

26

00:02:33,030 --> 00:02:31,519

it's also seeing the coldest

27

00:02:35,110 --> 00:02:33,040

temperatures it's ever seen in this

28

00:02:36,550 --> 00:02:35,120

whole lifetime in the six plus years has

29

00:02:38,630 --> 00:02:36,560

been on mars

30

00:02:40,150 --> 00:02:38,640

so when you get something really really

31

00:02:42,790 --> 00:02:40,160

cold

32

00:02:44,390 --> 00:02:42,800

things might break and so we're not sure

33

00:02:47,030 --> 00:02:44,400

when it starts building up its power

34

00:02:48,630 --> 00:02:47,040

again and in theory it would have enough

35

00:02:51,270 --> 00:02:48,640

power to communicate

36

00:02:53,270 --> 00:02:51,280

back with us we're not sure if

37

00:02:55,750 --> 00:02:53,280

everything survived over the next six

38

00:02:58,070 --> 00:02:55,760

months plus we're going to be listening

39

00:03:00,309 --> 00:02:58,080

and hoping that spirit revives gets

40

00:03:02,309 --> 00:03:00,319

enough energy and is able to communicate

41

00:03:03,830 --> 00:03:02,319

with us there's science for it to do

42

00:03:05,190 --> 00:03:03,840

without even having to get out of the

43

00:03:06,869 --> 00:03:05,200

hole that it's in

44

00:03:08,550 --> 00:03:06,879

and we're just hopeful that it survived