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00:00:04,299 --> 00:00:07,899

Hello, I'm NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden.

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00:00:07,899 --> 00:00:12,480

This week we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the International Space Station, and I

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00:00:12,480 --> 00:00:17,940

want to congratulate the entire NASA workforce and all of our international partners on a

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00:00:17,940 --> 00:00:19,820

job well done.

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00:00:19,820 --> 00:00:24,240

There's much more to be learned aboard the station, and I look forward eagerly to the

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00:00:24,240 --> 00:00:26,929

milestones of the coming years.

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00:00:26,929 --> 00:00:29,820

Our incredible station is many things.

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00:00:29,820 --> 00:00:34,060

It's our home in orbit, where we're learning how to live and work in space for the long

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00:00:34,060 --> 00:00:39,640

term and perform research and demonstrate technologies that will help us reach an asteroid

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00:00:39,640 --> 00:00:41,120

and Mars.

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00:00:41,120 --> 00:00:44,030

It's integral to our exploration strategy.

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00:00:44,030 --> 00:00:46,750

It's a unique global resource.

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00:00:46,750 --> 00:00:51,160

Scientists from around the world can send their experiments to the station, and astronauts

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00:00:51,160 --> 00:00:57,210

from many countries demonstrate what is achievable when nations work together toward common goals

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00:00:57,210 --> 00:01:04,920

that improve life everywhere.

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00:01:04,920 --> 00:01:11,730

On Nov. 20, 1998, Zarya, the first module of the space station launched into orbit and

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00:01:11,730 --> 00:01:15,090

ushered in a new era of space exploration.

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00:01:15,090 --> 00:01:20,010

Just two years later, on Nov. 2, 2000, the first crew arrived.

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00:01:20,010 --> 00:01:27,150

For 13 years now, we have had a continuous human presence in space, and that is truly

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00:01:27,150 --> 00:01:28,610

amazing.

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00:01:28,610 --> 00:01:33,490

As we reach for those farther destinations, our experiences aboard the station will be

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00:01:33,490 --> 00:01:35,080

invaluable.

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00:01:35,080 --> 00:01:39,840

More than 200 people from around the world have visited the station, and currently an

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00:01:39,840 --> 00:01:46,100

international crew of six circles our globe every 90 minutes on their mission to expand

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00:01:46,100 --> 00:01:48,020

the boundaries of human achievement.

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00:01:48,020 --> 00:01:53,750

The station has welcomed a variety of international and commercial spacecraft, and it has helped

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00:01:53,750 --> 00:02:00,390

spur the innovation that led SpaceX and Orbital Sciences to become the world's first commercial

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00:02:00,390 --> 00:02:03,600

resuppliers of its cargo needs.

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00:02:03,600 --> 00:02:08,850

In the coming years, astronauts launched from American soil aboard the spacecraft of American

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00:02:08,850 --> 00:02:11,990

companies will travel to the station.

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00:02:11,990 --> 00:02:18,070

Beginning with that single humble module in 1998, the International Space Station now

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00:02:18,070 --> 00:02:25,140

serves as a proving ground for science, technology and human innovation, and it acts as a test

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00:02:25,140 --> 00:02:31,530

bed for the technologies we will need as we plan future missions to an asteroid and Mars.

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00:02:31,530 --> 00:02:38,750
Everyday I'm awed by the extraordinary things we do here at NASA, and today I'm especially

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00:02:38,750 --> 00:02:44,890
proud of our accomplishments during the past 15 years aboard this orbiting outpost.

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00:02:44,890 --> 00:02:50,760
There are multitudes of scientific and technological breakthroughs yet to be made, and the station

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00:02:50,760 --> 00:02:55,370
will guide us to the next great milestones in space exploration.

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00:02:55,370 --> 00:03:01,050
To everyone who helped make the station a reality and continues to play a role in its