



1

00:00:01,040 --> 00:00:03,830

“Here’s some of the stories trending This Week at NASA!”

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00:00:03,830 --> 00:00:12,040

“I can unequivocally say that the State of NASA is strong.”

3

00:00:12,040 --> 00:00:16,560

That assertion by NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden came during his Feb. 2 “State of

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00:00:16,560 --> 00:00:21,250

NASA” address at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, following the release of President

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00:00:21,250 --> 00:00:27,220

Obama’s Fiscal Year 2016 \$18.5 billion budget proposal for NASA earlier the same day.

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00:00:27,220 --> 00:00:32,410

“That’s a half billion-dollar increase over last year’s enacted budget, and it

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00:00:32,410 --> 00:00:38,180

is a clear vote of confidence to you – the employees of NASA and the ambitious exploration

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00:00:38,180 --> 00:00:39,570

program you are executing.”

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00:00:39,570 --> 00:00:45,060

And, a vote of confidence for NASA’s plan moving forward, which includes development

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00:00:45,060 --> 00:00:49,760

of new vehicles and technologies needed for unprecedented human missions to an asteroid

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00:00:49,760 --> 00:00:54,940

and to Mars, commercial partnerships to provide transportation to and from the International

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00:00:54,940 --> 00:01:00,190

Space Station from the United States and research on the station for the benefit of future deep

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00:01:00,190 --> 00:01:03,440

space travelers and people living on our home planet.

14

00:01:03,440 --> 00:01:09,860

“As we advance our journey to Mars, we’re also focusing here on Earth on making aviation

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00:01:09,860 --> 00:01:12,920

greener, quieter and more efficient.”

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00:01:12,920 --> 00:01:18,880

“NASA is a leader in Earth and climate science and our constantly expanding view of our planet

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00:01:18,880 --> 00:01:23,670

from space is helping us understand Earth and its changes.”

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00:01:23,670 --> 00:01:29,080

And as the Administrator noted, although Mars is a key destination, it’s only one point

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00:01:29,080 --> 00:01:33,590

on NASA’s journey of discovery throughout our solar system and beyond – across the

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00:01:33,590 --> 00:01:35,310

farthest reaches of the universe.

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00:01:35,310 --> 00:01:39,590

“I couldn’t be more excited about our

future!

22
00:01:39,590 --> 00:01:47,130
We're making steady progress and continuing to reach for new heights."

23
00:01:47,130 --> 00:01:52,630
New views of Pluto and its largest moon Charon, captured by NASA's New Horizons spacecraft

24
00:01:52,630 --> 00:01:59,299
were released on Feb. 4, the 109th birthday of late astronomer Clyde Tombaugh, who first

25
00:01:59,299 --> 00:02:02,150
spotted the small planet in 1930.

26
00:02:02,150 --> 00:02:07,619
New Horizons' telescopic Long-Range Reconnaissance Imager (LORRI) took the pictures on Jan. 25

27
00:02:07,619 --> 00:02:12,599
and Jan. 27 from more than 126 million miles away.

28
00:02:12,599 --> 00:02:19,170
New Horizons will make a close flyby of Pluto and its moons on July 14.

29
00:02:19,170 --> 00:02:24,430
On Jan. 31, NASA successfully launched its Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) spacecraft

30
00:02:24,430 --> 00:02:27,279
from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base.

31
00:02:27,279 --> 00:02:32,370
SMAP, the first Earth satellite designed to collect global observations of the vital soil

32

00:02:32,370 --> 00:02:36,870

moisture hidden just beneath our feet, is the agency's fifth Earth Science mission

33

00:02:36,870 --> 00:02:40,730

to be launched in the last 11 months.

34

00:02:40,730 --> 00:02:46,269

Representatives from NASA, industry and academia participated in the annual Virginia Aerospace

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00:02:46,269 --> 00:02:51,049

Day in and around the Virginia General Assembly building in Richmond, recently.

36

00:02:51,049 --> 00:02:56,129

It was an opportunity to showcase for elected officials the significant economic and technological

37

00:02:56,129 --> 00:03:01,629

impact that Langley Research Center and Wallops Flight Facility have on the Commonwealth and

38

00:03:01,629 --> 00:03:05,810

to promote science, technology, engineering and math-related education.

39

00:03:05,810 --> 00:03:09,590

And that's what's up this week @NASA ...