



1  
00:00:09,500 --> 00:00:13,910

My name is Shaun Goodman I'm the Project  
System Engineer for the SMAP Project, Soil

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00:00:13,910 --> 00:00:15,740

Moisture Active and Passive.

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00:00:15,740 --> 00:00:20,320

Working with my team to develop the spacecraft,  
to develop the mission, how best to do the

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00:00:20,320 --> 00:00:22,090

testing for the system.

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00:00:22,090 --> 00:00:25,730

Any technical issues we might have encountered  
or things that we feel need to be addressed

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00:00:25,730 --> 00:00:28,300

to increase the success of the mission.

7  
00:00:28,300 --> 00:00:32,970

It's looking at the top five centimeters  
of moisture in the soil, and that's important

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00:00:32,970 --> 00:00:38,420

because that layer of moisture is part of  
what controls our climate.

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00:00:38,420 --> 00:00:40,670

Water is everything to all of us.

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00:00:40,670 --> 00:00:45,399

So once we conduct this mission and gain some  
information about soil moisture, we'll be

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00:00:45,399 --> 00:00:50,870

able to better-forecast climate we'll be  
able to better to forecast droughts and floods.

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00:00:50,870 --> 00:00:53,670

Those are critical elements of course for farming, for food.

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00:00:53,670 --> 00:00:58,860

It'll also help us understand how carbon interacts with the planet so that we understand

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00:00:58,860 --> 00:01:06,810

better what climate change might be impacted by carbon uptake or carbon dioxide uptake.

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00:01:06,810 --> 00:01:10,850

When I started to understand that spacecraft are robots, I thought well this is great it

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00:01:10,850 --> 00:01:15,350

could work, I got the job offer, I thought who turns down a job offer at NASA and two

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00:01:15,350 --> 00:01:21,510

I get to work with robots and space it's the best thing I ever could have imagined.

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00:01:21,510 --> 00:01:25,280

When I was younger there weren't a lot of ethnic role models for me.

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00:01:25,280 --> 00:01:30,110

I certainly didn't know any; I didn't know any other African Americans that were

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00:01:30,110 --> 00:01:31,590

in science at all.

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00:01:31,590 --> 00:01:34,680

Because society had been limited right in opportunities at that time, there weren't

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00:01:34,680 --> 00:01:39,720

a lot of people I could reach out to or look to for that kind of example.

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00:01:39,720 --> 00:01:43,960

Over time that certainly changed and I can feel it now, I imagine people like myself

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00:01:43,960 --> 00:01:50,000

are people who can help mentor, I certainly mentor from a variety of different backgrounds.

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00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:51,590

But it's easily the best job I've ever had.

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00:01:51,590 --> 00:01:55,829

It's a great atmosphere to work in, the people really care about the things that they

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00:01:55,829 --> 00:01:57,540

do, they're technically oriented.