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00:00:01,120 --> 00:00:03,909

"Here's some of the stories trending This Week at NASA!"

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00:00:03,909 --> 00:00:10,491

On Sept. 14, officials from the White House and NASA discussed the space agency's Asteroid

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Redirect Mission (ARM) during a televised event at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

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00:00:15,660 --> 00:00:21,220

On the mission, which is targeted for launch in Dec. 2021, NASA plans to send a robotic

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spacecraft to an asteroid tens of millions of miles from Earth, capture a multi-ton boulder,

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00:00:27,310 --> 00:00:31,750

and bring it to an orbit near the moon for future exploration by astronauts on a following

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mission aboard NASA's Orion spacecraft.

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During the live discussion, John Holdren, assistant to President Obama for Science and

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00:00:39,280 --> 00:00:45,239

Technology, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and ARM Program Director Michele Gates highlighted

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00:00:45,239 --> 00:00:49,790

the mission's scientific and technological benefits, how the mission will support NASA's

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goal of sending humans to Mars in the 2030s,
and how it will demonstrate technology relevant

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to defending Earth from potentially hazardous
asteroids.

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00:01:00,239 --> 00:01:04,739

NASA astronaut and Expedition 47 Commander
Tim Kopra made several appearances in the

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00:01:04,739 --> 00:01:09,940

Washington area the week of Sept. 12, to share
highlights of his recent six-month mission

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00:01:09,940 --> 00:01:11,990

aboard the International Space Station.

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00:01:11,990 --> 00:01:17,750

On Sept. 15, during a safety and health day
at NASA headquarters, Kopra spoke with employees

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00:01:17,750 --> 00:01:22,360

about the importance of both to NASA missions
and life in general.

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00:01:22,360 --> 00:01:26,940

While on the space station, Kopra's crew
conducted human research that could potentially

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00:01:26,940 --> 00:01:32,780

be used to treat patients suffering from ocular
diseases, such as glaucoma, as well as help

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00:01:32,780 --> 00:01:38,420

NASA prepare humans for health-related issues
associated with long-duration spaceflight.

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Later that afternoon, Kopra showed imagery from his mission at George Mason University

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00:01:43,530 --> 00:01:48,420
during a presentation hosted by the university's Department of Physics and Astronomy.

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00:01:48,420 --> 00:01:55,070
After the program he answered questions about working at NASA and the future of space exploration.

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00:01:55,070 --> 00:01:59,850
According to a monthly analysis of global temperatures by scientists at NASA's Goddard

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00:01:59,850 --> 00:02:04,780
Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York, August 2016 was not only the warmest

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00:02:04,780 --> 00:02:11,409
August in 136 years of modern record-keeping – but also tied July 2016 for the warmest

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00:02:11,409 --> 00:02:13,280
month ever recorded.

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00:02:13,280 --> 00:02:20,040
August 2016's temperature was 0.16 degrees Celsius warmer than the previous warmest August

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00:02:20,040 --> 00:02:21,349
in 2014.

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00:02:21,349 --> 00:02:26,920
August 2016's record warmth continued a streak of 11 consecutive months dating back

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00:02:26,920 --> 00:02:32,900
to October 2015 that have set new monthly high-temperature records.

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00:02:32,900 --> 00:02:37,420

According to NASA and the NASA-supported National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) at the University

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00:02:37,420 --> 00:02:43,469

of Colorado at Boulder, an analysis of satellite data showed that at 1.60 million square miles,

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the 2016 Arctic sea ice minimum extent is effectively tied with 2007 for the second

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lowest annual minimum in the satellite record.

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00:02:53,069 --> 00:02:58,439

Since satellites began monitoring sea ice in 1978, researchers have observed a steep

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00:02:58,439 --> 00:03:03,540

decline in the average extent of Arctic sea ice for every month of the year.

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00:03:03,540 --> 00:03:08,409

The sea ice cover of the Arctic Ocean and surrounding seas helps regulate the planet's

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00:03:08,409 --> 00:03:13,639

temperature, influences the circulation of the atmosphere and ocean, and impacts Arctic

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00:03:13,639 --> 00:03:15,189

communities and ecosystems.

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00:03:15,189 --> 00:03:18,980

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

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