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00:00:00,830 --> 00:00:04,200

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

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00:00:04,200 --> 00:00:11,710

An Oct. 11 opinion article written by President Barack Obama and published by CNN, outlined

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00:00:11,710 --> 00:00:15,099

a vision for the future of space exploration.

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00:00:15,099 --> 00:00:19,380

In it, the president echoed the words in his 2015 State of the Union address about the

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00:00:19,380 --> 00:00:25,410

importance of sending humans on a roundtrip mission to Mars by the 2030s, and developing

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00:00:25,410 --> 00:00:30,200

technology to help us stay on the Red Planet for an extended time.

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00:00:30,200 --> 00:00:35,700

That same day in a blog post, NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden and John Holdren, assistant

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00:00:35,700 --> 00:00:40,560

to the President for Science and Technology, discussed two NASA initiatives that build

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00:00:40,560 --> 00:00:46,090

on the president’s vision and use public-private partnerships to enable humans to live and

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00:00:46,090 --> 00:00:48,910

work in space in a sustainable way.

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00:00:48,910 --> 00:00:54,120

The first was the selection of six companies to develop habitation systems as part of the

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00:00:54,120 --> 00:01:00,350
agency's Next Space Technologies for Exploration Partnerships or "NextSTEP" program, designed

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00:01:00,350 --> 00:01:03,640
to lay the groundwork for deep space missions.

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00:01:03,640 --> 00:01:08,970
And this fall as part of the second initiative, NASA will start the process of providing companies

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00:01:08,970 --> 00:01:13,750
with a potential opportunity to add their own modules and other capabilities to the

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00:01:13,750 --> 00:01:15,860
International Space Station.

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00:01:15,860 --> 00:01:20,690
The move is in-line with NASA's plan to support and foster the growing community of

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00:01:20,690 --> 00:01:28,250
scientists and entrepreneurs conducting research and growing businesses in space.

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00:01:28,250 --> 00:01:33,080
On Oct. 13, NASA and the Journey to Mars were among the featured topics at the White House

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00:01:33,080 --> 00:01:34,760
Frontiers Conference.

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00:01:34,760 --> 00:01:39,910
The national gathering, convened and co-hosted by President Obama, the University of Pittsburgh

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00:01:39,910 --> 00:01:46,130
and Carnegie Mellon University, focused on
building U.S. capacity in science, technology,

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00:01:46,130 --> 00:01:50,950
and innovation, and the new technologies,
challenges and goals that will continue to

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00:01:50,950 --> 00:01:54,110
shape the 21st century and beyond.

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00:01:54,110 --> 00:02:00,570
NASA Deputy Administrator Dava Newman, Chief
Scientist Ellen Stofan and astronaut Serena

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00:02:00,570 --> 00:02:05,900
Auñón-Chancellor were among the agency representatives
at the event, which also included several

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00:02:05,900 --> 00:02:08,610
NASA exhibits and displays.

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00:02:08,610 --> 00:02:14,950
NASA's Kennedy Space Center resumed operations
on Oct. 11 after being closed for several

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00:02:14,950 --> 00:02:17,700
days due to Hurricane Matthew.

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00:02:17,700 --> 00:02:22,470
During a news briefing, Kennedy Center Director
Bob Cabana and his Damage Assessment and Recovery

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00:02:22,470 --> 00:02:27,810
Team (DART) chief, Bob Holl gave an update
on the center's status and recovery efforts.

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00:02:27,810 --> 00:02:32,950
The hurricane passed close to Kennedy as it

moved up Florida's east coast Oct. 7, causing

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00:02:32,950 --> 00:02:38,030

some isolated roof damage, a few downed power lines, and limited water intrusion.

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00:02:38,030 --> 00:02:42,510

There were no reports of any injuries.

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00:02:42,510 --> 00:02:47,630

Engineers at Glenn Research Center's Plum Brook Station in Sandusky, Ohio recently completed

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00:02:47,630 --> 00:02:53,959

a series of vibration tests with a full-size test version of the service module for NASA's

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00:02:53,959 --> 00:02:55,260

Orion spacecraft.

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00:02:55,260 --> 00:03:00,930

A mechanical vibration table was used to test the 55,000-pound service module to ensure

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00:03:00,930 --> 00:03:06,230

it can withstand the forces it will encounter when it launches on the agency's Space Launch

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00:03:06,230 --> 00:03:09,020

System (SLS) rocket in 2018.

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00:03:09,020 --> 00:03:14,709

Provided by ESA, (the European Space Agency) and built by Airbus Defence & Space, the service

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00:03:14,709 --> 00:03:19,780

module is designed to power and cool Orion, in addition to providing air and water for

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00:03:19,780 --> 00:03:21,550

the astronauts onboard.

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00:03:21,550 --> 00:03:27,550

At NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, teams have finished welding the liquid

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00:03:27,550 --> 00:03:32,819

hydrogen tank that will hold the rocket fuel SLS and Orion's first spaceflight test will

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00:03:32,819 --> 00:03:34,849

use in 2018.

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00:03:34,849 --> 00:03:40,150

Standing more than 130 feet tall, the liquid hydrogen tank is the largest cryogenic fuel

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00:03:40,150 --> 00:03:42,630

tank for a rocket in the world.

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00:03:42,630 --> 00:03:48,550

It and a liquid oxygen tank will hold about 733,000 gallons of propellant and feed the

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00:03:48,550 --> 00:03:54,650

rocket's four RS-25 engines – to produce a total of 2 million pounds of thrust.

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00:03:54,650 --> 00:04:01,290

SLS will have the power and payload capacity needed to carry crew and cargo on future exploration

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00:04:01,290 --> 00:04:05,690

missions to deep space, including NASA's Journey to Mars.

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00:04:05,690 --> 00:04:11,480

A video message from NASA Administrator Bolden was played during a recent open house at the

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00:04:11,480 --> 00:04:16,799
Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS) facility
near NASA's Ames Research Center at Moffett

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00:04:16,799 --> 00:04:22,089
Field, California, to congratulate ASRS on
its 40th anniversary.

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00:04:22,089 --> 00:04:28,759
The ASRS is a joint-partnership between NASA
and the FAA that provides pilots, ground crews,

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00:04:28,759 --> 00:04:33,860
air traffic controllers, and other aviation
professionals a confidential way to report

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00:04:33,860 --> 00:04:36,010
potential risks.

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00:04:36,010 --> 00:04:43,069
In the past decades, over 1.6 million reports
have been filed, resulting in more than 6,200

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00:04:43,069 --> 00:04:48,289
alerts – many of which have led to safety
improvements.

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00:04:48,289 --> 00:04:50,319
And that's what's up this week @NASA ...