



1

00:00:00,669 --> 00:00:05,750

Here's a look at some of the top NASA stories of 2016 ...

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00:00:05,750 --> 00:00:11,000

In March, NASA astronaut and Expedition 46 Commander Scott Kelly and Russian cosmonaut

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00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:15,650

Mikhail Kornienko completed their historic one-year mission aboard the International

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00:00:15,650 --> 00:00:17,180

Space Station.

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00:00:17,180 --> 00:00:22,570

And NASA's commercial cargo partners, Orbital ATK and SpaceX, delivered tons of cargo to

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00:00:22,570 --> 00:00:28,140

the station in 2016, to support hundreds of science experiments and technology demonstrations

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00:00:28,140 --> 00:00:32,019

crucial to NASA's Journey to Mars.

8

00:00:32,019 --> 00:00:36,739

The Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM, was one of the technology demonstrations

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00:00:36,739 --> 00:00:39,600

delivered to the space station in April.

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00:00:39,600 --> 00:00:45,379

In June, a booster for NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket successfully fired up.

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00:00:45,379 --> 00:00:50,120

It will be used on the first uncrewed test

flight of SLS with NASA's Orion spacecraft

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00:00:50,120 --> 00:00:51,929
in 2018.

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00:00:51,929 --> 00:00:57,239
And in March, the agency updated the milestones
for its InSight mission to Mars with a new

14

00:00:57,239 --> 00:01:02,309
target launch window beginning in May 2018.

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00:01:02,309 --> 00:01:07,840
Exploration of our solar system and beyond
included the July 4 arrival of the Juno spacecraft

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00:01:07,840 --> 00:01:08,840
to Jupiter.

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00:01:08,840 --> 00:01:16,390
In September, NASA launched OSIRIS-REx – America's
first sample return mission to an asteroid.

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00:01:16,390 --> 00:01:21,180
In February, the final primary mirror segment
was installed on NASA's James Webb Space

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00:01:21,180 --> 00:01:22,189
Telescope.

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00:01:22,189 --> 00:01:26,630
The most powerful space telescope ever will
launch in 2018.

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00:01:26,630 --> 00:01:33,110
And in May, NASA's Kepler mission verified
the discovery of 1,284 new planets.

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00:01:33,110 --> 00:01:38,439

Kepler is the first NASA mission to find potentially habitable Earth-size planets.

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00:01:38,439 --> 00:01:44,499

NASA's efforts to improve life on Earth included the announcement in March of a collection

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00:01:44,499 --> 00:01:48,670

of Earth science field campaigns to study how our planet is changing.

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00:01:48,670 --> 00:01:54,549

In November the agency announced plans to launch six next-generation, Earth-observing

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00:01:54,549 --> 00:01:56,650

small satellite missions.

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00:01:56,650 --> 00:02:03,159

One uses GPS signals to measure winds in hurricanes and tropical systems in greater detail than

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00:02:03,159 --> 00:02:05,689

ever before.

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00:02:05,689 --> 00:02:11,980

NASA efforts in 2016 to make air travel cleaner, safer and quieter included new technology

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00:02:11,980 --> 00:02:18,989

to improve safety and efficiency of aircraft arrivals, departures and surface operations.

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00:02:18,989 --> 00:02:24,470

In June, NASA highlighted the agency's first designation of an experimental airplane, or

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00:02:24,470 --> 00:02:26,620

X-plane, in a decade.

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00:02:26,620 --> 00:02:29,430
It will test new electric propulsion technology.

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00:02:29,430 --> 00:02:35,490
And in October, NASA evaluated a system being developed for the Federal Aviation Administration

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00:02:35,490 --> 00:02:40,080
(FAA) to safely manage drone air traffic.

36
00:02:40,080 --> 00:02:45,370
On the technology front, the agency selected Aerojet Rocketdyne to develop an advanced

37
00:02:45,370 --> 00:02:51,200
electric propulsion system to enable deep space travel to an asteroid and Mars.

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00:02:51,200 --> 00:02:57,370
NASA's Technology Transfer program continued to share the agency's technology with industry,

39
00:02:57,370 --> 00:03:02,269
academia and other government agencies at an unprecedented rate.

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00:03:02,269 --> 00:03:08,900
And the Centennial Challenges program conducted four competition events in 2016 to spark innovation

41
00:03:08,900 --> 00:03:13,170
and enable solutions in important technology focus areas.

42
00:03:13,170 --> 00:03:18,170
That's a look at some of the top NASA stories of 2016.