



1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,417  
(rapid electronic music)

2  
00:00:19,231 --> 00:00:21,814  
(swagger rock)

3  
00:00:23,900 --> 00:00:27,980  
- The design concept reduces  
the drag at transonic speeds,

4  
00:00:27,980 --> 00:00:31,390  
allows the airplane to  
fly faster and farther.

5  
00:00:31,390 --> 00:00:33,110  
- We've actually done aeronautics research

6  
00:00:33,110 --> 00:00:36,100  
for over 100 years; so,  
NASA's predecessor was

7  
00:00:36,100 --> 00:00:38,960  
the National Advisory  
Committee for Aeronautics.

8  
00:00:38,960 --> 00:00:42,000  
The NACA field laboratories  
became part of NASA,

9  
00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:44,270  
and we continue that tradition.

10  
00:00:44,270 --> 00:00:46,440  
- They developed a lot of the theories

11  
00:00:46,440 --> 00:00:47,900  
with the people they had back then;

12

00:00:47,900 --> 00:00:49,930  
they developed wind tunnels.

13

00:00:49,930 --> 00:00:53,490  
We ran the wind tunnels  
actually three shifts a day

14

00:00:53,490 --> 00:00:56,020  
because there was that much demand

15

00:00:56,020 --> 00:00:58,530  
for the data from the companies,

16

00:00:58,530 --> 00:01:00,490  
and that who we were doing it for.

17

00:01:00,490 --> 00:01:04,370  
We had lady computers who  
reduced the data for us.

18

00:01:04,370 --> 00:01:05,203  
(auxiliary engine roaring)

19

00:01:05,203 --> 00:01:06,550  
- [Control] Ready to launch, now.

20

00:01:07,478 --> 00:01:08,411  
(main engines blast)

21

00:01:08,420 --> 00:01:13,620  
- The X-15 was in many ways  
the ultimate research tool.

22

00:01:13,940 --> 00:01:17,360  
The very first aircraft to fly into space

23

00:01:17,360 --> 00:01:20,590  
and come back and land  
horizontally on a runway.

24

00:01:20,590 --> 00:01:22,204

- We had to make the engine run

25

00:01:22,204 --> 00:01:24,719

in order to make the plane fly.

26

00:01:24,719 --> 00:01:26,710

It had to be dropped from altitude;

27

00:01:26,710 --> 00:01:29,190

it had to be started at altitude;

28

00:01:29,190 --> 00:01:32,860

and it had to have stable combustion.

29

00:01:32,860 --> 00:01:34,230

And we made it work.

30

00:01:34,230 --> 00:01:37,520

- It was very much an experimental,

31

00:01:37,520 --> 00:01:40,430

one of a kind laboratory in the sky

32

00:01:40,430 --> 00:01:43,930

to investigate the next great  
hurdle, which was hypersonics.

33

00:01:43,930 --> 00:01:46,860

And that's a problem we're  
still working on today.

34

00:01:46,860 --> 00:01:50,660

- So we've always been trying  
to go farther, faster, higher;

35

00:01:50,660 --> 00:01:52,580

that's what mankind has  
always wanted to do,

36

00:01:52,580 --> 00:01:53,880  
to explore.

37

00:01:53,880 --> 00:01:56,290  
That's what NASA does; we explore.

38

00:01:56,290 --> 00:01:58,770  
And now NASA is looking at a new X-plane

39

00:01:58,770 --> 00:02:00,770  
so that we can make it a little bit easier

40

00:02:00,770 --> 00:02:03,850  
to get across the country,  
about twice as fast.

41

00:02:03,850 --> 00:02:05,840  
- And the innovation there is actually

42

00:02:05,840 --> 00:02:08,040  
the shape of the aircraft, so that we can

43

00:02:08,040 --> 00:02:10,510  
enable supersonic flight over land,

44

00:02:10,510 --> 00:02:14,030  
and that'll open up a whole new industry.

45

00:02:14,030 --> 00:02:16,590  
- Here we are, looking at how do we take

46

00:02:16,590 --> 00:02:20,300  
all of those things that  
we've learned historically,

47

00:02:20,300 --> 00:02:22,440  
and place them in an aircraft

48

00:02:22,440 --> 00:02:25,660  
that can actually fly faster  
than the speed of sound

49

00:02:25,660 --> 00:02:27,427  
without creating the sonic boom.

50

00:02:27,427 --> 00:02:28,260  
(sonic boom)

51

00:02:28,260 --> 00:02:30,330  
And if we can accomplish that objective,

52

00:02:30,330 --> 00:02:32,840  
then people all across the United States

53

00:02:32,840 --> 00:02:34,870  
and in fact all across the world

54

00:02:34,870 --> 00:02:37,670  
will be able to fly faster  
than the speed of sound

55

00:02:37,670 --> 00:02:41,060  
and in fact they could fly  
multiple times the speed of sound

56

00:02:41,060 --> 00:02:44,510  
without disrupting  
communities on the ground.

57

00:02:44,510 --> 00:02:47,610  
We want to be at the very  
leading edge of technology

58

00:02:47,610 --> 00:02:50,138

when it comes to supersonic flight.

59

00:02:56,560 --> 00:02:58,990

- When you look out that window  
and you see that winglet,

60

00:02:58,990 --> 00:03:01,270

that was developed originally by NASA.

61

00:03:01,270 --> 00:03:03,421

There's so many things that NASA has done

62

00:03:03,421 --> 00:03:05,893

that we're with you when you fly.

63

00:03:11,360 --> 00:03:13,790

- The computers used on the Space Shuttle,

64

00:03:13,790 --> 00:03:15,270

the prototype of those computers

65

00:03:15,270 --> 00:03:18,420

were actually flown on the F-8  
Digital Fly-By-Wire airplane.

66

00:03:18,420 --> 00:03:21,920

- 80% of the world's  
commercial airliner fleet today

67

00:03:21,920 --> 00:03:25,570

use that same technology in  
order to fly their aircraft.

68

00:03:25,570 --> 00:03:29,290

And almost all the military  
aircraft that are made today.

69

00:03:29,290 --> 00:03:31,750

- I remember the first time

I was flying an F-18 Hornet.

70

00:03:31,750 --> 00:03:33,430

I was in a bit of turbulence,

71

00:03:33,430 --> 00:03:35,800

and I thought I was holding  
the airplane steady,

72

00:03:35,800 --> 00:03:37,720

and my flight controls were moving.

73

00:03:37,720 --> 00:03:40,174

Well those technologies  
and those capabilities

74

00:03:40,174 --> 00:03:42,825

were developed by NASA.

75

00:03:51,730 --> 00:03:55,360

- Electric propulsion really  
just opens up the playing field

76

00:03:55,360 --> 00:03:57,630

for what you can do with airplanes.

77

00:03:57,630 --> 00:03:59,360

Could be an air-taxi type vehicle

78

00:03:59,360 --> 00:04:01,290

or two or three, four people will travel

79

00:04:01,290 --> 00:04:04,330

across a downtown area and be  
able to get to a destination

80

00:04:04,330 --> 00:04:06,870

much quicker than being  
stuck on the freeway.

81

00:04:06,870 --> 00:04:10,080

And so it's going to create  
all new types of designs

82

00:04:10,080 --> 00:04:12,930

for vertical lift transitioning  
to forward flight,

83

00:04:12,930 --> 00:04:14,144

and the predictions are that we'll be

84

00:04:14,144 --> 00:04:16,513

three times more efficient.

85

00:04:20,260 --> 00:04:22,360

- Unmanned aircraft systems  
follows in a long line

86

00:04:22,360 --> 00:04:25,130

of technologies that  
NASA always is pursuing

87

00:04:25,130 --> 00:04:28,080

to improve the quality of  
life for your everyday person.

88

00:04:28,080 --> 00:04:30,790

Like, they examine bridges or buildings

89

00:04:30,790 --> 00:04:32,780

that perhaps were  
damaged in an earthquake,

90

00:04:32,780 --> 00:04:34,350

find out where the damage is.

91

00:04:34,350 --> 00:04:36,310

You could do that by never having

92

00:04:36,310 --> 00:04:39,000

to actually go into the  
building or walk on the bridge,

93

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:40,646

so that makes it safer for people.

94

00:04:40,646 --> 00:04:42,370

(pilot speaks on radio)

95

00:04:43,630 --> 00:04:46,000

- For 60 years we've been exploring.

96

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:48,570

We stand on the shoulders of  
giants that came before us.

97

00:04:48,570 --> 00:04:51,440

They figured it out and we've  
taken it a little bit farther.