

NASA ASTRONAUT

BOB  
BEHNKEN



1  
00:00:00,199 --> 00:00:05,400  
My career at NASA has a kind of spanned  
a couple of decades at this point. I

2  
00:00:05,400 --> 00:00:09,510  
arrived with the class of 2000, went  
through the training program primarily

3  
00:00:09,510 --> 00:00:13,049  
focused on the space shuttle and the  
International Space Station learning

4  
00:00:13,049 --> 00:00:17,580  
those systems. Having launched a couple  
times on vehicles, you know the the

5  
00:00:17,580 --> 00:00:22,260  
second time was definitely different  
than the first time. You can feel a

6  
00:00:22,260 --> 00:00:25,560  
little bit guilty of "Hey, should I study  
one more thing? Or one more piece of

7  
00:00:25,560 --> 00:00:29,640  
information I should get?  
Am I really prepared or not?" So that's

8  
00:00:29,640 --> 00:00:34,060  
definitely different between where I was  
on my first flight and where I'm at right now.

9  
00:00:34,060 --> 00:00:39,690  
For me personally as a spouse,  
watching everything that Bob has put

10  
00:00:39,690 --> 00:00:43,649  
into this over the last five years, the  
dedication that he's shown the

11  
00:00:43,649 --> 00:00:49,680  
perseverance is pretty special. For both  
of us though, the way our minds work it

12  
00:00:49,680 --> 00:00:53,280  
won't be until sort of the mission is  
complete that you have really a chance

13  
00:00:53,280 --> 00:00:57,840  
to savor it and celebrate it. This is a  
huge accomplishment for an Air Force

14  
00:00:57,840 --> 00:01:02,670  
flight test engineer to be part of the  
demonstration mission of a brand new

15  
00:01:02,670 --> 00:01:05,000  
vehicle. It's going to be amazing.

16  
00:01:06,120 --> 00:01:08,520  
Without  
a partner that has that same

17  
00:01:08,600 --> 00:01:11,660  
appreciation I think it can be  
challenging for some folks. There's a

18  
00:01:11,670 --> 00:01:15,930  
there's a lot of work and a lot of time  
that takes away from family that

19  
00:01:15,930 --> 00:01:20,939  
that my spouse appreciates and I  
love her for that. On a deeply personal

20  
00:01:20,939 --> 00:01:26,130  
level, I'm really excited that my son is  
going to get a chance to see me launch

21

00:01:26,130 --> 00:01:30,630  
into space. Being an astronaut has been a  
little bit of an abstraction thing for

22

00:01:30,630 --> 00:01:34,290  
him because he's seen me do it in old  
videos but he hasn't seen me do it for

23

00:01:34,290 --> 00:01:37,540  
real and so I'm excited for him to see  
this launch.

24

00:01:39,820 --> 00:01:41,260  
Really my role on the demo2

25

00:01:41,260 --> 00:01:47,060  
mission is to make sure that we get this  
vehicle tested and evaluated so that we

26

00:01:47,070 --> 00:01:51,300  
can move on to more operational missions  
at the International Space Station.

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00:01:51,300 --> 00:01:56,190  
We've got a lot of objectives onboard  
the vehicle that we need to accomplish

28

00:01:56,190 --> 00:02:00,030  
to really make sure that it's good to go.  
We'll make sure all those systems are

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00:02:00,030 --> 00:02:04,140  
working during the test flight so that  
the future missions will have them

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00:02:04,140 --> 00:02:08,600  
available even if they don't plan to  
utilize them. Through years of the

31

00:02:08,600 --> 00:02:12,840

the NASA team, I'm helping to share that experience and teaching them the lessons

32

00:02:12,840 --> 00:02:17,040

that we've learned by going through this.  
Now there's another capability in the

33

00:02:17,040 --> 00:02:22,650

U.S. besides NASA to operate something  
of this magnitude. I want to thank the

34

00:02:22,650 --> 00:02:26,340

entire Commercial Crew program team  
that's worked together to get to this