



COMMUNICATING DART:
NASA'S MISSION TO

CRASH

INTO AN

ASTEROID

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00:00:00,320 --> 00:00:06,320

Spacecraft. Impact. Asteroid. What? You think science fiction but this is real. I'm Justyna

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Surowiec and i help tell the story of the DART mission. DART is the Double Asteroid

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Redirection Test. It is NASA's first planetary defense test mission. We're sending a spacecraft

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to a double asteroid system. We're going to hit the smaller asteroid with that spacecraft

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and see if we can nudge that asteroid in space. Hitting the asteroid is going to prove out whether

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this technique is something that we could rely on were there ever to be a hazard facing the planet.

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I'm a public affairs officer at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. What I do

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is tell the story of this very exciting mission through press releases, through videos, through

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all sorts of different communications avenues. As a kid I was always drawn to creative fields.

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At some point i got lost in stories and it just became very easy to talk about these fantastic

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missions. It's something that impacts humanity
so it's very important to make sure that people

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understand. The DART mission is first and foremost
the first experiment of its kind. There is no

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immediate threat to Earth. We want to make sure
that we can go out there and prepare and be ready.

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It's very easy to kind of think "Armageddon"
or "Deep Impact." So what we do is try to get

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the facts out and to make sure that people are
getting accurate information versus just hearing

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sensational headlines. So as you can see behind me
this is actually the DART spacecraft right here.

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The solar arrays will actually roll out to 28 feet
in length. It's amazing to be able to talk about

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it and share it with others. It's very cool just
seeing how the spacecraft takes shape and how our

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storytelling takes shape as well. "This is so
exciting, this is so cool. Have you heard about

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this mission? We're going to an asteroid. Oh and
we're going to hit it." It's just like the basis