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NASA Paves Way for Commercial Space Exploration



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1.		Animated Open	
2.		Montage: Kennedy and Moon Landing	00:00:07
3.	 <p>Antonio Neves <i>the.News</i></p>	On Camera: When President John F. Kennedy challenged America to put a man on the moon, NASA oversaw all elements of the space program, from sending satellites into orbit to building a space station. But now, private industry is entering a new kind of space race.	00:00:26
4.	 <p>Allen Herbert Phezu Space</p>	SOT: Allen Herbert <i>I would say in about four or five years we're looking to have our first vehicle.</i>	00:00:43
5.		Narration: Allen Herbert is President of the Phezu Space Company in Reston Virginia. It's a new company that wants to become an outer space repair shop. In five years he hopes to be in the business of fixing malfunctioning satellites.	00:00:47

6.		<p>SOT: Herbert <i>What we will be building and designing// is a robotic type of vehicle that will go up and service the satellites. It'll tow them, it will refuel them and it will service them just like any type of service station, so basically it's a gas station in space.</i></p>	00:01:01
7.		<p>Narration: Right now there are dozens of companies large and small getting into the space business. They are working on everything from launching satellites; to space tourism; to getting astronauts to the International Space Station. Phil McAlister is acting director of NASA's commercial spaceflight division.</p>	00:01:18
8.	 <p>Phil McAlister NASA</p>	<p>SOT: Phil McAlister <i>We are going to be helping them financially and technically with their activities, but it's gonna be slightly different than it has been in the past where NASA has just owned the design, owned the vehicles like the Space Shuttle. In this scenario the private sectors will own these vehicles, so it's a very different role for NASA to be in, it's a paradigm shift for us.</i></p>	00:01:37
9.		<p>Narration: NASA hopes commercial companies will have other customers interested in putting people and satellites into low earth orbit. Sharing the expense with private industry will reduce the government's costs.</p>	00:02:00

10.		<p>SOT: McAlister <i>If it were just NASA and we were the only customers for this service then it might not make sense. All federal budgets are very tight and that includes NASA as well. We believe that by doing this mission commercially that we can save a lot of money.</i></p>	00:02:12
11.	 <p>Brett Alexander Commercial Spaceflight Federation</p>	<p>SOT: Brett Alexander <i>We've been doing human spaceflight for 50 years. We know how to do it. It's still a dangerous activity; you have to make sure you're doing it right; you want to make sure it's safe and reliable, but the technology is there.</i></p>	00:02:27
12.		<p>Narration: Bretton Alexander is President of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation, a trade group based in Washington D.C. He compares today's space program today to air travel in the 1920's and 30's.</p>	00:02:38
13.		<p>SOT: Alexander <i>Those first few people that flew on commercial airlines had to pay an awful lot of money to do that. The first flights across the Atlantic after Charles Lindbergh broke that barrier; those first commercial flights at the time were incredibly expensive. If you flash forward to today those were 2 to 3 hundred thousand dollar tickets.</i></p>	00:02:52

14.		<p>Narration: That's about what commercial passengers will be paying to ride on Virgin Galactic's spaceship. Taking off from a new spaceport in New Mexico, it will launch from a mother ship and carry crew and passengers into space for a three hour ride. And the Space X company has already launched and recovered an unmanned capsule. The company hopes to win a contract to re-supply the International Space Station.</p>	00:03:14
15.	 <p>Henry Hertzfeld Space Policy Institute - GWU</p>	<p>SOT: Henry Hertzfeld <i>Space is risky, it's expensive, its difficult. It takes a lot of money.</i></p>	00:03:41
16.		<p>Narration: Professor Henry Hertzfeld teaches space law at George Washington University. He remains skeptical of NASA's relying on private companies.</p>	00:03:46
17.		<p>SOT: Hertzfeld <i>We still don't have enough private companies with enough expertise that a government agency that's mission oriented can completely rely on the commercial sector to provide services in the way that they would sell furniture to the agency.</i></p>	00:03:55

18.		<p>Narration: Private industry will not completely replace NASA. It will still formulate policies to ensure that spaceflight is safe and that the ships are reliable. And it will still take the lead in deep space missions to asteroids and other planets. That has NASA interns Sean Po and Mark Wong excited about the agency's future.</p>	00:04:18
19.	 <p>Sean Po NASA Intern Harvard University</p>	<p>SOT: Sean Po <i>You have basically new ideas, new people who have great input and a lot of technology and a lot of funding also, that basically they fill the industry right now, aerospace industry with a lot of new "fire in the belly" so to speak because people are coming in they're excited, they want to get this done and NASA provides a lot of the background, the historical knowledge.</i></p>	00:04:39
20.	 <p>Mark Wong NASA Intern UMBC</p>	<p>SOT: Mark Wong <i>I can see my instrument that I built get sent into space. I worked with a lot of really cool scientists, a lot of really cool engineers, a lot of smart people. The most exciting thing is I can feel my personal growth, my knowledge growth and it opens my eyes to a lot of stuff.</i></p>	00:05:05

21.		SOT: Herbert <i>I really believe that space, no matter what, is really our ultimate destiny and I think that the farther reaches we go out with the resources out there that are ultimately it will bring the whole earth into a better way of living.</i>	00:05:20
22.		Narration: I'm Antonio Neves for the Dot News	00:05:36