XRS Leak Script Clip from *Building the Coolest X-ray Satellite*

Video

CLIP OF LOW ANGLE SHOT OF KEVIN WALKING INTO CRIF TEXT: MEANWHILE

Audio

NARRATOR: Back at the CRIF, the XRS team detects the first sign of problems.

Video

CLIP OF RICH KELLEY AT A COMPUTER TEXT: RICH KELLEY INFO

Audio

RICH KELLEY: So this is really, what we are seeing, this is really the indication of trouble, of a leak, which is that when you close off the valve the leak rate goes down – when you open the valve the leak rate goes up.

Video

CLIP OF THE XRS DEWAR

Audio

NARRATOR: Sensors detect a small helium leak inside the Dewar.

Video

CLIP OF RICH SHOWING A PLOT ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN WHERE THE LEAK IS EVIDENT

Audio

RICH KELLEY: We did another check over here as well. This step here from this low level, which is almost zero up to here is our leak, that's the real solid indication

Video

CLIPS OF THE XRS DEWAR KEVIN OC

Audio

KEVIN: We had a very small leak; it's so small that is almost impossible to see at room temperature. It was only when you made the system very cold, that the leak would get big enough that you could see the helium coming out.

Video

RICH OC

Audio

RICH: That has a couple of implications, first of all, obviously is we have an extremely tight schedule, delivery schedule, so this now, potentially jeopardizes the delivery schedule.

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Video

CLIPS OF WORK IN THE CRIF RICH OC

Audio

RICH: All of the instruments that we build for use in space are one of a kind, very unique instruments. So we allocate some time in our schedule to deal with problems and unexpected things. In this particular case we're dealing with something that's really difficult - we have a very, very small leak that we can only detect when the instrument is cold. And therefore it's going to take a lot of effort and really heroic effort on the part of the team to try to find this problem, fix it and get the instrument back together and to Japan when we said we would.

Video

CLIPS OF WORK IN THE CRIF

Audio

NARRATOR: After spending days in an exhausting effort to fix the helium leak and stay on schedule, the XRS team now faces an even more serious problem.

Video

CLIP OF KEVIN SHOWING THE TEST DEWAR ANIMATION OF THE TEST DEWAR DAMAGE

Audio

KEVIN: There was a leak, which turned out to be in the vent line and we found that with this leak detector. We were able to patch it and repair it, but unfortunately what happened was during the repair – during the testing of the repair – we got an ice plug in the helium fill and vent lines for the test Dewar and that actually ruptured and caused some damage – this of course has set us back quite a bit.

Video

CLIPS OF WORK IN THE CRIF AND THE SCHEDULES FOR WORK

Audio

NARRATOR: The XRS Team goes into crunch-mode with shifts working around the clock to fix the damage, test the system and get back on schedule. It's becomes the most grueling, the most trying few weeks the XRS team has had to go through. Tension strains the team, testing nerves and patience.

Video

CLIP WITH RICH SHOWING A "STRESS CHECK CARD"

Audio

MIKE MCCLARE (OFF CAMERA): That's not a joke??

KEVIN: No, it's actually a Goddard thing.

RICH. I'm calm

Video

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CLIPS OF WORK IN THE CRIF

Audio

NARRATIVE: It's been a tough few weeks for the XRS team. But Their determination and drive to stay on schedule pays off.

Video

CLIP OF SCOTT PORTER SHOWING WHERE THE TEAM IS ON THE SCHEDULE

TEXT: F. SCOTT PORTER INFO

Audio

SCOTT: We are going to integrate the FEA ADR this morning. We should be done in about an hour and a half. Then that ends this series and then we are on to the cryostat integration. Back where we should be.

Video

KEVIN OC

TEXT: KEVIN'S INFO

CLIPS OF WORK ON THE XRS IN THE CLEAN ROOM

Audio

KEVIN: People are a little happier than they have been over the past few weeks. We made a new schedule after we had the accident, the damage to the test Dewar, we made a new schedule and it looked like if we really worked hard we could get done in time to deliver in mid-March, which is when we need to deliver in order to launch on time. We've actually gained on that schedule – we are six days ahead of that schedule right now. So that has some slack in the schedule as well. So we've got a little bit of room now to breath. So everybody is feeling a little bit happier, it's really nice to be done with the calibration – this interim calibration – and going back into the real flight unit.

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