



## **British technology sent to explore Saturn's moons**

Clip taken from 'Destination Titan', BBC Four.

*PROF JOHN ZARNECKI:*

My instrument, the Surface Science Package, its main aim was to make measurements for however long we lasted on the surface. We were told initially anyway to plan for three minutes on the surface only, so we designed it for all of our measurements to be done in that very narrow timeframe.

*DR MARK LEESE:*

If we didn't reach the surface by 151 minutes then actually we'd time out into surface mode, which would be a disaster because we'd actually lose some of our major data, and the probe was descending way, way slower than anyone expected.

*CONTROL ROOM:*

SSP, can I have a status report? OMSSP, is status nominal on B. All stations I think we have touchdown. We think we've detected surface.

*DR MARK LEESE:*

In the end we had just over three minutes spare when we hit the surface.

*DR RALPH LAURENZ:*

I came back into the support area and heard that the data had been delivered and so I went up to my colleagues and I wanted the data. It was on a stick, so I was: 'Who's got the stick, give me the stick?'

I ran into the lab, the guys were there clustered around one single PC screen and just as I got there and I was about to ask the question: 'Do we have data yet?' The screen burst into life and we saw every single sensor had worked. We'd got effectively a perfect data set and the boys were ecstatic.

*PROF JOHN ZARNECKI:*

There was tremendous outpouring of emotion in that room and I have to say that I did go off at one point into the corner and I was crying, frankly. It was I think the release of all that emotion after all of those years. We'd been through so much together.