



Tim Peake becomes the first British Esa astronaut

Clip taken from a BBC News interview with Science Editor David Shukman.

TIM PEAKE:

I'm clearly delighted with the decision. It's a huge privilege to be assigned, particularly to a long duration mission to the International Space Station and I really look forward to the challenges lying ahead.

DAVID SHUKMAN:

You had long years in the Army as a helicopter pilot. Does that give you the right stuff for this space mission?

TIM PEAKE:

I think my previous career really gave me a grounding in so many different areas. Aviation is a wonderful environment to launch into a career in space. But also many other backgrounds are particularly suited to it as well. But no I'm very grateful for all the training I've received in the past.

DAVID SHUKMAN:

Others before you, if they've wanted to go into space, have either had to become Americans and fly with Nasa or in the case of Helen Sharman 20 years ago, won a competition and was flown up by the Russians. How do you feel as the first 'official' government-backed Brit to go into space?

TIM PEAKE:

I think it just reflects on the tremendous direction that the UK space industry is going at the moment. We now have a UK Space Agency and we've increased our funding to the European Space Agency – we're the third largest contributor. Space is a huge part of our economy creating jobs and great for industry as well. So I think this is just one other facet that really recognises all of those facts.