



The International Space Station - a triumph of human intelligence

Transcript: Video clip from *Human Universe*, episode one.

PROF BRIAN COX:

Today the journey off our planet begins here in the cosmonaut training facility on the outskirts of Moscow.

I'm floating in a space suit above the International Space Station and it's surely as close as I'm going to get to being in space. Astronauts have to do this for hours at a time - six, seven eight hour space walks. They're going to have to perform many of them to install this module when it's taken up into space.

Over there... that's the Zvezda Module, the Russian habitation module. That's where the cosmonauts sleep...you know where they eat. It's their lounge in space.

Since 2nd November 2000, when the first expedition arrived, the International Space Station has been continuously occupied. Humanity's permanent outpost amongst the stars.

You know, for me this defines what it means to be human. Throughout the whole history of life on earth, of all the creatures that have ever lived in the oceans and the land or in the sky, only one has ever made it off its home world. So why is it that we alone ventured out into space? What is it that makes us special?

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