

# **TALKING POINTS FOR ACTING ADMINISTRATOR**

*As Prepared*

**ROBERT LIGHTFOOT**

**VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE TO**

**KENNEDY SPACE CENTER**

**July 6, 2017**

It's wonderful to be here at Kennedy again, and to welcome Vice President Pence to another one of our great NASA centers.

The Administration has been very supportive of all of NASA's work, and I want to thank the Vice President for his interest in NASA. We look forward to working with you as part of the renewed National Space Council. I also want to thank the Administration for its vote of confidence through our Fiscal Year 2018 budget request.

I'm sure most of you saw the Vice President welcoming our new class of astronaut candidates a couple of weeks ago at the Johnson Space Center, and now we get the chance to show him some of the hardware and systems we're working so hard on to get those astronauts to low-Earth orbit and to travel to destinations in deep space.

There are a lot of great examples right here at Kennedy of Made in America innovations that are being felt around the globe. From the Space Launch System ground systems, to work on Orion, and the many milestones our industry partners are making on commercial crew and cargo -- our future in space goes straight through Kennedy.

We're building tomorrow's legacy standing on the shoulders of the giants who got us here, and the recent successes that have given us the momentum we need to travel farther. It's really cool that the Orion that flew on EFT-1 is right behind us. It represented our

farthest trip to space for a craft intended for humans in 40 years, and it was an amazing success.

And now we're using what we learned from that flight and working hard on the next steps with EM-1 and the full spectrum of missions beyond it for years to come.

I'm thrilled that we also have here today a flown Dragon cargo capsule from SpaceX and a mockup of Boeing's Starliner that has been used in training. Our industry partners have really stepped up to make commercial resupply of the International Space Station a reality, and commercial crew is just around the corner.

I want to thank Bob Cabana for his vision and leadership and the entire Kennedy workforce for working so hard to transform this center into a multi-user spaceport, where industry partners and other government agencies can find what they need to get to space and to do things that benefit all of us.

We're leveraging the value of the public/private partnerships.

These innovative partnerships are resupplying the station, developing new systems to fly crew to space, and creating jobs and economic growth even as we make amazing discoveries and inspire the next generation.

KSC's ongoing work with industry demonstrates our new way of doing business. It's not just government that has access to space any longer.

It's most evident here that today, this is an "AND" not an "OR" proposition. We need the efforts of government, and we need industry. We need small and large companies. We need international partners, and we need the inspiration and innovation of academia and the full range of people who want to build a future in space.

And we need you – this great team here at KSC. Your inspiration and determination and incredible skills. Let me tell you, seeing everything you're working on gives me the energy to continue to advocate for all of NASA's efforts when I return to Washington.

So thank you for giving us such a great showcase for the Vice President. And, now I want to turn the stage over to him. Thank you again for being here today. I know it means a great deal to our team here and across the Agency.

Please join me in giving a big Kennedy welcome to Vice President Mike Pence.

Thank you.