Thomas Pesquet Alpha Mission

A-Roll

VO:

ESA astronaut Thomas Pesquet has been assigned to the second operational flight of SpaceX’s Crew Dragon spacecraft, launching to the International Space Station in 2021.

Thomas Pesquet:

“It’s great to be the first European to fly on the Crewed Dragon. I flew on Soyuz before, very reliable. But now it is a completely different new vehicle. Completely modern. And I am very excited about it because it is a different approach to flying in space.

Thomas Pesquet:

Crew Dragon its big flat screens. The controls are very different from what you find in an aircraft, even in modern ones. It is really futuristic in a way, and that’s exciting.”

VO:

Thomas’s second space mission will be called Alpha.

Thomas Pesquet:

“I chose to call my mission Alpha because my first one was Proxima. From Proxima Centauri, the star closest to the Earth. And this one is Alpha Centauri, it is part of the same system. It is also close to the Earth, it gives the idea of proximity to the people. What we do in space is for people on the ground. Also Alpha to me, it is a Greek letter, so it is used very much in math, science and technology. It is also a symbol of what we do up there. Alpha is the symbol of excellence. It is the first letter of the alphabet. That’s also all the efforts that we do to achieve excellence in space. And finally Alpha was also the name of the Space Station when it was developed at the beginning and sometimes it’s used as a callsign on the radio frequency communications. So that’s why to me Alpha, it ticks all the boxes for being a really good mission name.”

VO:

The Alpha patch was designed by ESA’s graphic artists, and features a rocket launch – the most dramatic moment of every space mission.

Thomas Pesquet:

“Around the patch there’s 17 coloured slots and they refer to the sustainable development goals of the UN. Which is a framework to try to achieve all the development goals around the world. So we’re showing that what we do in space is actually part of a broader initiative to simply make the world a better place, or make society better.”

VO:

At the top, the International Space Station is stylised in the colours of the French flag. Ten stars sparkle in the background, evoking the Centaurus constellation, and the number of French citizens who have flown to space.

Thomas has already started training for his new spacecraft in the simulator, and for his six-month stay on the International Space Station.

Thomas Pesquet:

“I have been introduced to my new vehicle, the Crew Dragon. And we’re building up our crew work in the sim. And I am also preparing for everything that is going to happen on board the ISS, to spacewalks, the science and managing all the systems of the Space Station.”

VO:

Thomas’s second mission promises to be action-packed as the Space Station crew increases from six to seven members on average, and major upgrades to Europe’s laboratory.

Thomas Pesquet Training Alpha Mission

BROLL

Date: 27-07-2020

TRT: 13:17

Footage filmed by NASA

Footage was filmed at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, USA June-July 2020

00:05 - 02:49 : Extravehicular Mobility Unit (EMU) suit fit check on 10 July 2020

02:50 – 05:16 : Emergency training with fire drill on 22 June 2020

05:16 – 07:10 : EMU suit maintenance training on 16 June 2020

07:10 – 10:30 : EVA training underwater in the Neutral Buoyancy Lab (NBL) on 19 June 2020

10:30 – 11:46 : EVA tools training on 16 June 2020

11:46 – 13:17 : Food tasting for mission food selection on 8 July 2020