



Frequently Asked Questions about NASA's Johnson Space Center

What is Raytheon Technical Services role at NASA's JSC?

RTSC is an integral part of NASA's space missions. RTSC employees work closely with NASA to perform major logistical, technical and operational services 24-hours a day in support of three of the most critical and hazardous training facilities at NASA/JSC.

What does RTSC do to support NASA?

RTSC has 5 contracts with NASA to help support space missions. RTSC employees maintain and operate more 30 individual training systems and 12 life support systems. RTSC employees are also responsible for designing, manufacturing, integrating and sustaining life-size space mockups.

How long has Raytheon had a partnership with NASA?

Since the Apollo and Gemini space missions in the 1960's, Raytheon employees have maintained a partnership with NASA for the past 40 years to perform high fidelity modeling and simulation guidance. Raytheon employees have worked closely with NASA as a vital part of their past, current and future space missions.

How many RTSC employees work onsite at NASA's Johnson Space Center?

Approximately 46 RTSC employees

How far is the International Space Station from earth?

The International Space Station is approximately 220 miles (354 km) from earth at any given time. The distance may change slightly due to drag from the atmosphere, but mainly, the International Space Station orbits the earth at this distance.

It is approximately the distance of four and a half hours of travel on a highway. The Space Station completely orbits the earth in about 92 minutes. That is approximately 5,700 trips around the earth per year.

What does a launch feel like?

It is a very exciting, noisy, shaking ride for the first two minutes. Then the solid rocket boosters drop off and it gets a lot smoother, but there still is a strong push on the back of the astronauts' seats from all the power from the three main engines. Three main engines burn fuel at approximately 1,000 gallons per second. The shuttle goes from zero miles per hour (mph) on the launch pad to over 17,000 mph in just over eight minutes. That means we go 2,000 mph faster every minute.

How do you know what time it is in space?

All the clocks on the shuttle are set to Mission Elapsed Time (MET). The MET clock does not start running until the astronauts launch into space, and it starts right at midnight. Astronauts have a 16-hour work day and then a sleep period. Mission Control uses both MET for the shuttle and Central time for public event times, so that everyone knows when particular events will occur on a mission.

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