"HOUSTON, STATION ON SPACE TO GROUND."

WELCOME TO SPACE TO GROUND, I’M SHANEEQUA VEREEN. THIS WEEK, THE FIRST ALL PRIVATE ASTRONAUT MISSION DOCKED TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION, WHILE PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A PAIR OF RUSSIAN SPACEWALKS.

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH, AFTER A JOURNEY OF ALMOST 21 HOURS, THE AXIOM MISSION 1 ASTRONAUTS MICHAEL LOPEZ-ALEGRIA, LARRY CONNOR, EYTAN STIBBE, AND MARK PATHY ARRIVED AT THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION. THE SPACEX DRAGON SPACECRAFT DOCKED TO THE HARMONY MODULE WHILE THE SPACECRAFT WERE FLYING ABOUT 260 MILES ABOVE THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

LOPEZ-ALEGRIA IS ON HIS FOURTH SPACE FLIGHT AND HIS FIRST AS AN AXIOM SPACE ASTRONAUT. HE PARTNERED WITH AX-1 PILOT LARRY CONNOR TO EXPLORE HOW LIVING IN MICROGRAVITY AFFECTS CELLULAR AGING AND CARDIAC CELLS. THE OTHER TWO AXIOM-1 ASTRONAUTS, MARK PATHY AND EYTAN STIBBE, EXPLORED DNA SEQUENCING, BRAIN DYNAMICS, THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM, AND TESTED HOLOPORTATION, OR TRANSMITTING MIXED-REALITY, 360-DEGREE IMAGES OF HUMANS TO SPACE.

THE FLIGHT OF AXIOM-1 REPRESENTS BOTH A CULMINATION OF NASA’S EFFORTS TO FOSTER A COMMERCIAL MARKET IN LOW-EARTH ORBIT, AND A BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA OF SPACE EXPLORATION THAT WILL ENABLE MORE PEOPLE TO FLY ON MORE KINDS OF MISSIONS.

LOOKING AHEAD, A PAIR OF RUSSIAN SPACEWALKERS WILL VENTURE OUTSIDE THE STATION.

TWO COSMONAUTS CONTINUE GEARING UP FOR A PAIR OF SPACEWALKS. THE FIRST TO BE CONDUCTED ON MONDAY, APRIL 18TH, TO CONFIGURE THE NAUKA MULTIPURPOSE LABORATORY MODULE FOR THE EUROPEAN ROBOTIC ARM. ROSCOSMOS FLIGHT ENGINEERS OLEG ARTEMYEV AND DENIS MATVEEV HAD A FITNESS TEST, CHECKED THEIR ORLAN SPACESUITS, AND INSTALLED PRESSURE TANKS IN THE POISK MODULE AS PART OF STANDARD PRE-SPACEWALK PREPARATIONS. RUSSIAN FLIGHT ENGINEER SERGEY KORSAKOV SET UP HARDWARE TO ASSIST THE SPACEWALKERS FOR THE ROBOTICS WORK OUTSIDE NAUKA.

AS ALWAYS, YOU CAN WATCH THE SPACEWALK LIVE ON NASA-TV, NASA.GOV, AND THE NASA APP. COVERAGE STARTS AT 10 A.M. EASTERN.
YOU CAN GET A DAILY ON-ORBIT STATUS REPORT BY VISITING OUR SPACE STATION BLOG AT BLOGS.NASA.GOV. THAT’S SPACE TO GROUND FOR THIS WEEK. THANKS FOR WATCHING. WE’LL SEE YOU NEXT WEEK.