

Rover Shakedown Transcript

[00:00:06]Hi, I'm Randy Stark and this is your Building Curiosity Update.

[00:00:10]We're here in the Environmental Test Facility at JPL, where Curiosity is going through

[00:00:16]a series of random vibration tests. This test is like putting Curiosity through a

major earthquake.

[00:00:23]It's going to shake it both side to side and up and down.

[00:00:26]You'll notice that Curiosity is actually in its flight configuration, which is upside

down.

[00:00:33](shaking noise)

[00:00:43](applause)

[00:00:46]'3-2-1... We have ignition.'

[00:00:50]These tests will insure that the hardware was not only built correctly, but assembled

[00:00:55]and will survived the launch conditions. Next, will be system thermal vacuum tests,

[00:01:02]where we put Curiosity into a large vacuum chamber and simulate the environments, both

hot and cold,

[00:01:07]that Curiosity will see during its journey to Mars and also during its life on Mars.

[00:01:13]This sure seems like we're putting Curiosity through a lot of abuse, but the more

testing we can do

[00:01:18]here on Earth will insure a safer journey on the way to Mars and a longer life once

we get to Mars.

[00:01:24]This is Randy Stark and this has been your Building Curiosity Update.