# Boeing's Starliner Conducts Critical Thruster Testing at ISS with Stunning Aurora in Background



On June 15, Boeing's Starliner performed critical thruster testing while docked at the International Space Station (ISS), capturing an impressive image of an aurora in the background. NASA astronaut Matthew Dominick shared a timelapse showing the glow of the aurora as the crew lights illuminated Starliner. This testing followed an initial thruster malfunction on June 6.

Veteran astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams oversee the mission, which has been extended due to additional testing requirements, now expected to conclude around June 22. The alterations in the schedule aim to tackle various functional issues before Starliner's certification for routine ISS missions, which are slated to begin no earlier than 2025.

Auroras are visual phenomena caused by charged solar particles interacting with Earth's magnetic field lines. Their frequency currently is due to the sun hitting its peak activity in an 11-year cycle.

Boeing's Starliner mission follows SpaceX’s successful ISS missions with its Dragon spacecraft, highlighting NASA’s strategy under the Commercial Crew Program initiated in 2014. Despite delays due to technological and funding challenges, Starliner continues to progress, with significant issues from prior tests steadily being resolved.

NASA will provide further mission details in a media briefing scheduled for June 18.