Thrust project
What is it like to work as part of a team?

Len Newton, Dick Barton, Lorne Campbell and Colin Hales and Matthew Kear:

LEN NEWTON: Teamwork is everything. And I think Richard and the rest of the team know that everybody is as important as one another. That's the way we treat each other with respect for what they do. And then there are a lot of clever people and me out there.

But they come and they'll invite you to make suggestions on how things can be improved or maybe not. And they'll give you reasons why and why not. And then they're quite happy to accept sometimes that you know, that may be the right way to go.

So yeah, I think it's teamwork is everything as far as I'm concerned.

DICK BARTON: You have to go in with an open mind of saying I can see a problem over there, I can see a way round it and you put it into the team. They either agree or they don't. But you're always putting inputs. And it's nice to have.

Again, it's teamwork, of people who are prepared to listen even if they don't take take your idea. For anybody that's young, one of the biggest things is fear. When you don't know and you shouldn't have fear, voice your opinion.

If somebody shoots you down, that's their fault like yours. Keep keep putting your ideas forward because that's the only thing that matters and it makes you think. Whatever feedback you get, this is not a matter of right or wrong.

It's a matter of the feedback and growing in the knowledge you have and that's how you progress in life.

DICK BARTON: If you feel you're part of a team, even if there are people that fight you in a team, as long as you're trying to work that team forward and people listen to you and you have the expertise to do that, you should make your voice heard.

The worst thing you can do in any teamwork situation is to keep quiet, especially when you see something and I say that doesn't look right. If you keep that to yourself, that's wrong.

You should say, even if you're shot down, it doesn't matter. You have to say it's the courage which you unfortunately get with with old age, but you need it in youth as well. You really do.

LORNE CAMPBELL: It has to be a team player. There are parts of this that I don't understand yet, especially on the electronics, control side. The whole thing is a team, and each link in the chain of the team has to be solid. You know, you you only need to break one link and the whole thing.

So definitely a team player. I'm naturally a loner. I changed jobs. I used to go to the smaller and smaller companies and finally ended up working on my own. So I'm a naturally loner. But I soon worked out that you had to be a team player these days.

COLIN HALES: What people don't know but have rapidly soon learnt is that there are very many clever people on this project. OK, I am not the cleverest person on the planet by far.

I love learning and being on part of this project. I'm learning so much. But one thing that these guys have learnt about me is that because I've not come from the same background as them, I think slightly different to them and how they would think.

So if there's a problem, they think of a solution, I think of a completely different solution. It may work, it may not, but it's a different idea. So it's all those magical words thinking out the box.

But for someone who has a completely different view of how to create or resolve a solution, create a craft, resolve a solution to have a different opinion, different idea, that's really rewarding for them. And that's why they like me on the team.

MATTHEW KEAR: We need aerodynamicists, we need hydrodynamicists, we need sort of naval architects, we need electronics engineers, we need aerospace engineers, control engineers.

You know, there's loads of different sort of niche disciplines within engineering which which all contribute to a project like this and needing, you know, like vast expertise in lots of different areas.

And that's true in so many different projects or industries whereby you have a product or particularly a vehicle which is incredibly complex.

No one person knows the answer to all of them. You have to rely on a huge team of people just inputting their knowledge and expertise.