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**Put yourself in the pilot's seat of the Space Shuttle as it bows out,
with the FLIGHTTEST iPad app**

*It takes the energy of 16 power stations to launch the Space Shuttle... but
just the click of a button to discover what it is like to fly*

LESS than 360 men and women have been in the position of being counted among the crew of a Space Shuttle, and far fewer got to call themselves pilot of what has been called "the ultimate aircraft".

This Friday July 8th is planned to see the final crew of four for Mankind's most advanced machine make history, as the Space Shuttle Atlantis and mission STS-135 makes the 135th and final flight of a programme which first blasted off in 1981. Chris Ferguson and Doug Hurley will be the final Shuttle pilots.

Knowing what the Shuttle was *actually* like to fly has been something left mostly to the imagination, and Hollywood dramatisations. Until now. An interactive and fascinating app for the Apple iPad has been created which answers very directly the question: "What was the Shuttle like to fly?" The app is called FLIGHTTEST.

One who flew the Shuttle many times from launch to the pilot-intensive descent back to land – all the way down from 17,500mph and over 200 miles high to standstill, with no engines to call upon – is NASA legend Robert 'Hoot' Gibson.

His story of what the Shuttle is like to control throughout its spectacular re-entry and back to Earth is the centrepiece of FLIGHTTEST, which celebrates the most ambitious NASA project since the Moon landings themselves.

He talks about what it's like to be in the largest glider ever built as it crashes into the Earth's atmosphere at 25 times the speed of sound, heating to thousands of degrees centigrade – and about the reasons why the 'impact' with the atmosphere is the very thing that stops the Shuttle overheating.

The app, like a "Top Gear of planes", combines video and photography alongside in-depth features written by pilots, and includes features looking at what it's like to fly a whole host of aircraft – but the Shuttle 'flight test' is the one that will grab the imagination of millions of space fans eagerly awaiting the launch of the final mission this week.

The app includes some 40 minutes of video and numerous interactive elements in its 10 tests, making the best of the iPad's technical features – so would-be astronauts can navigate their way round the Shuttle flightdeck, or NASA's Mission Control.

The price of the app on iTunes is £1.79/\$2.99. Each of the 10 features includes video and special gallery modes (over 250 pictures in total), so it renders in one form in vertical and completely different in horizontal.

*ITUNES: Find the app on iTunes by searching 'FLIGHTTEST' or clicking to
<http://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/flighttest/id441383243?>*

EDITOR'S NOTES

To learn more, or receive a print- or web-ready redacted version of the Space Shuttle feature for free use, contact Sam Spurdens of LOOP Digital Media.

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