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# New NASA Technologies for Space Exploration

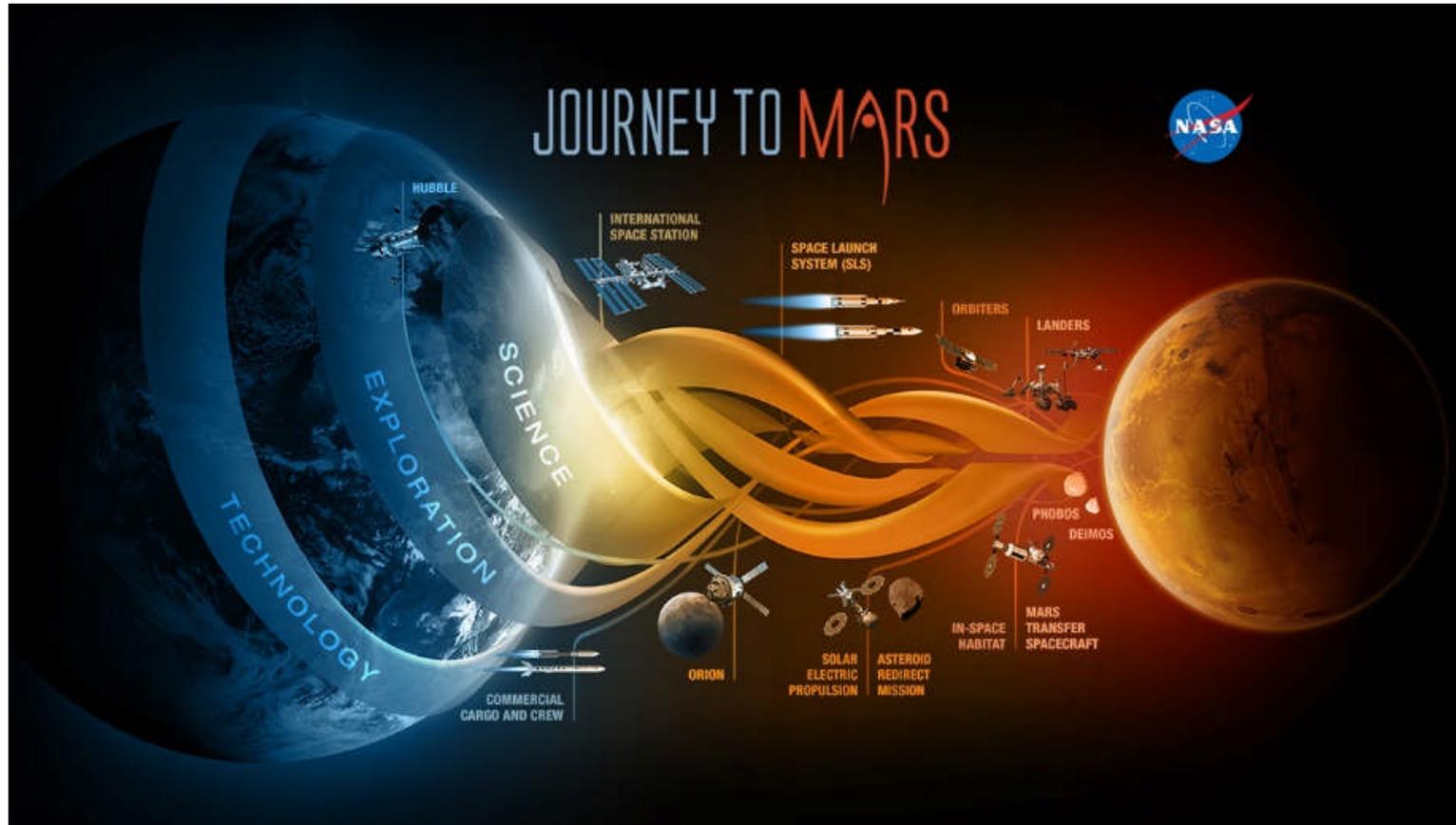


**Carlos I. Calle, Ph.D.**

Senior Research Scientist  
NASA Kennedy Space Center



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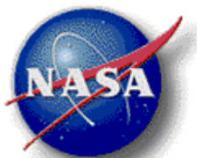
- While robotic explorers have studied Mars for more than 40 years, NASA's path for the human exploration of Mars begins in low-Earth orbit aboard the International Space Station. Astronauts on the orbiting laboratory are helping us prove many of the technologies and communications systems needed for human missions to deep space, including Mars. The space station also advances our understanding of how the body changes in space and how to protect astronaut health.
- Our next step is deep space, where NASA will send a robotic mission to capture and redirect an asteroid to orbit the moon. Astronauts aboard the Orion spacecraft will explore the asteroid in the 2020s, returning to Earth with samples. This experience in human spaceflight beyond low-Earth orbit will help NASA test new systems and capabilities, such as Solar Electric Propulsion, which we'll need to send cargo as part of human missions to Mars. Beginning in FY 2018, NASA's powerful Space Launch System rocket will enable these "proving ground" missions to test new capabilities. Human missions to Mars will rely on Orion and an evolved version of SLS that will be the most powerful launch vehicle ever flown



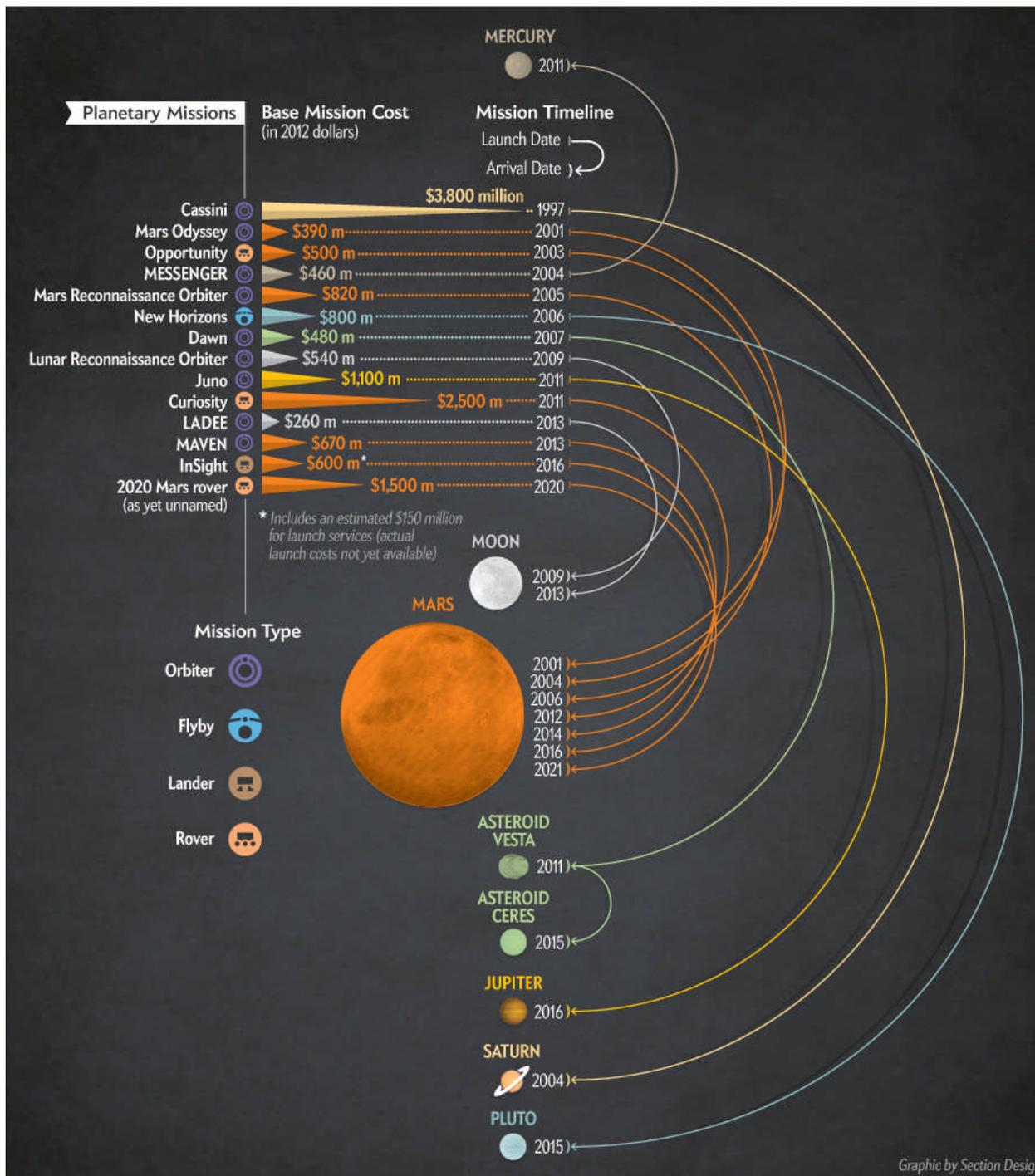
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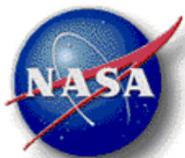


- NASA's Space Launch System, or SLS, is an advanced launch vehicle for a new era of exploration beyond Earth's orbit into deep space. SLS, the world's most powerful rocket, will launch astronauts in the agency's Orion spacecraft on missions to an asteroid and eventually to Mars, while opening new possibilities for other payloads including robotic scientific missions to places like Mars, Saturn and Jupiter.
- SLS will be the most powerful rocket in history and is designed to be flexible and evolvable



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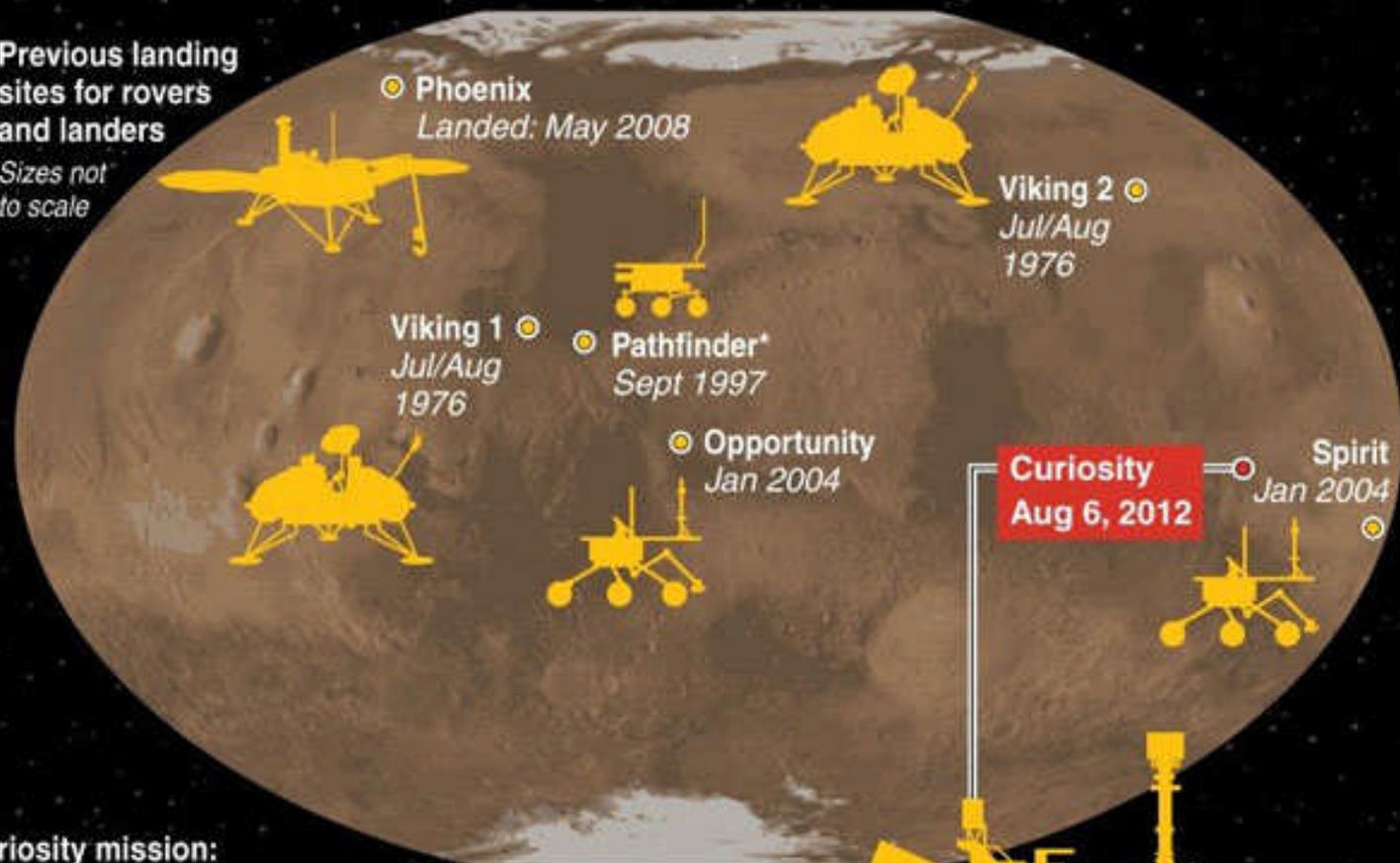
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# NASA's Mars landings

The US space agency plans to send a new rover to Mars in 2020

## Previous landing sites for rovers and landers

Sizes not to scale



## Curiosity mission:

- ▣ Study Gale Crater (154 km diameter) for signs that life may once have existed
- ▣ Look for clues about past and present habitable environments

Launched: Nov. 26, 2011  
 Weight: 899 kg  
 Cost: \$2.5 billion

Designed to function for 2 years



\*Deployed Sojourner rover

Source: NASA AFP

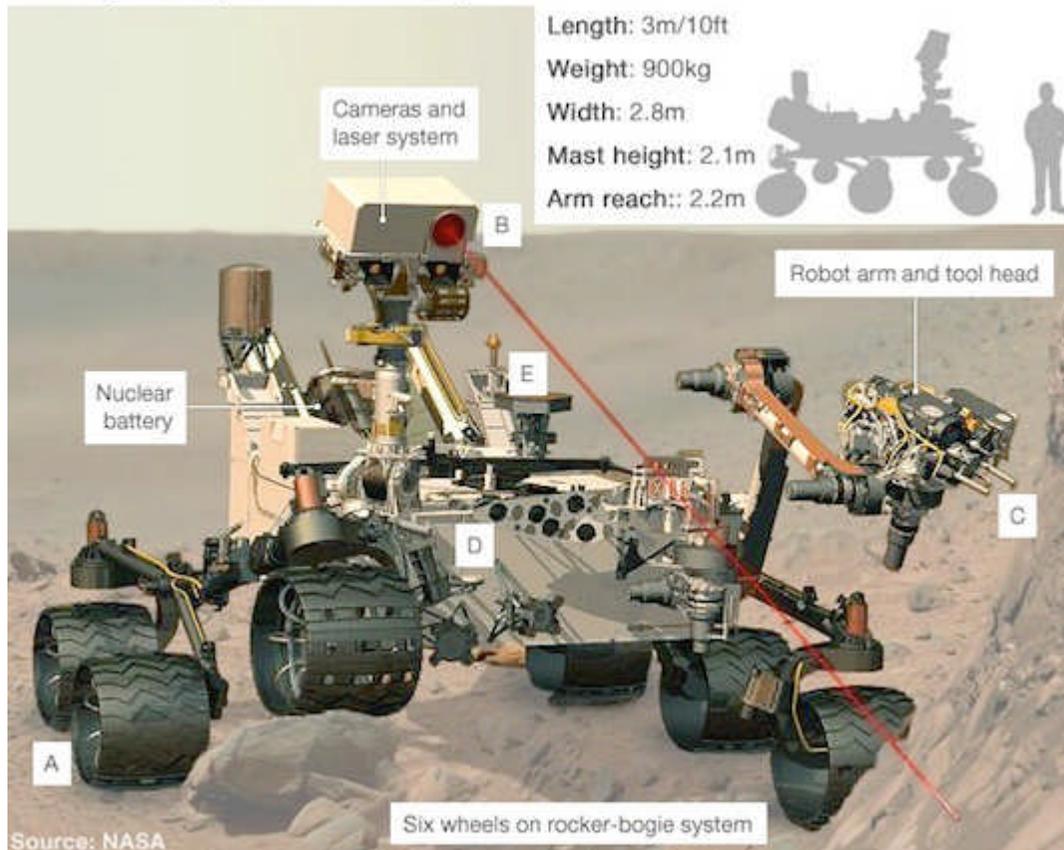




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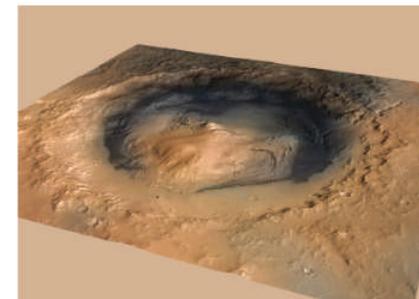
# Mars Science Laboratory Mission

Curiosity Rover (Mars Science Lab)



## Curiosity Rover

- Launch: Cape Canaveral, Nov. 26, 2011
- Landing:
  - S-curve maneuvers similar to a piloted Shuttle landing
  - Gale Crater (size of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined)
  - Aug. 6, 2012
- 23-month mission





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# Mars 2020 Rover Mission

## MISSION TIMELINE



### LAUNCH

- Atlas V
- Period: Jul/Aug 2020

### CRUISE/APPROACH

- 8 to 9-month cruise
- Arrive Jan/Mar 2021
- No changes from MSL (equivalent checkout capability, etc.)

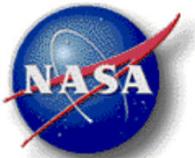
### ENTRY, DESCENT & LANDING

- MSL EDL system: guided entry and powered descent/Sky Crane
- 25 x 20 km landing ellipse\*
- Access to landing sites  $\pm 30^\circ$  latitude,  $\leq 0$  km elevation\*
- ~950 kg rover
- Technology enhancements under consideration

### SURFACE MISSION

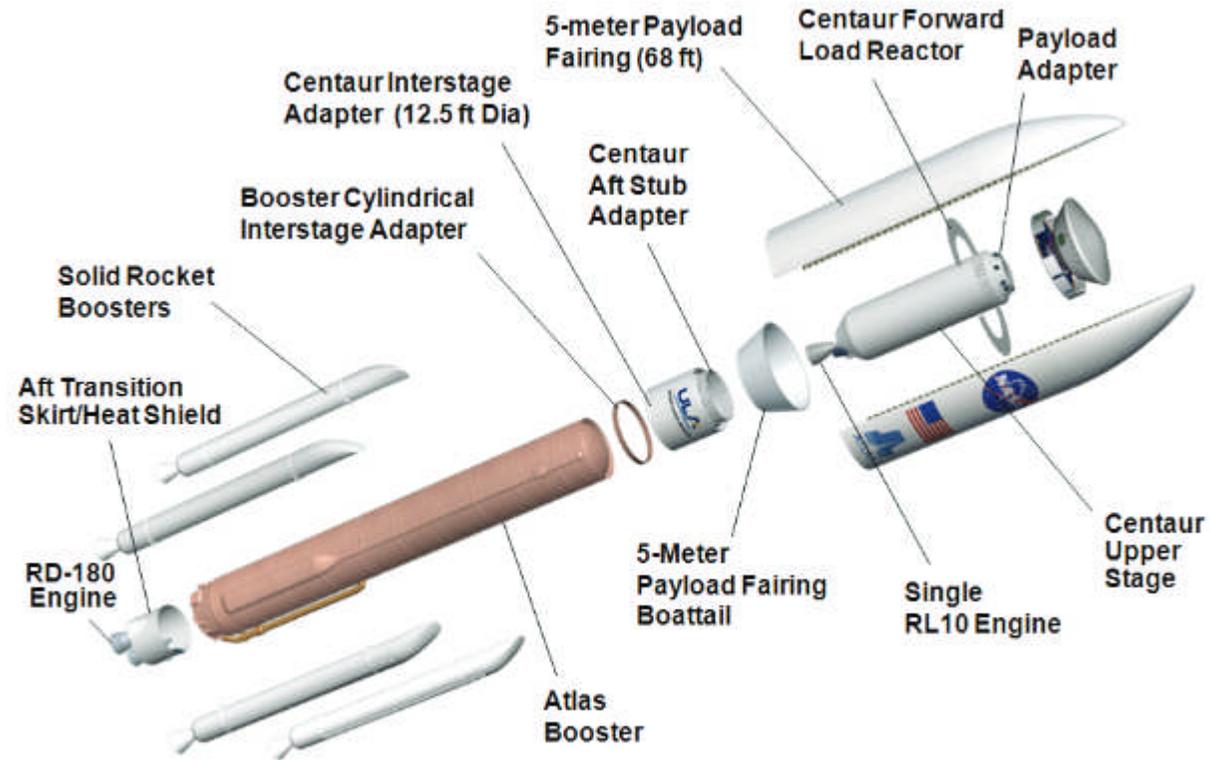
- Prime mission is one Mars year (669 days)
- Latitude-independent and long-lived power source
- Ability to drive out of landing ellipse
- Direct (uplink/downlink) and relayed (downlink) communication
- Fast CPU and large data storage

\* EDL in work



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# Launch Vehicle



*Atlas V 541 launch vehicle, expanded view*

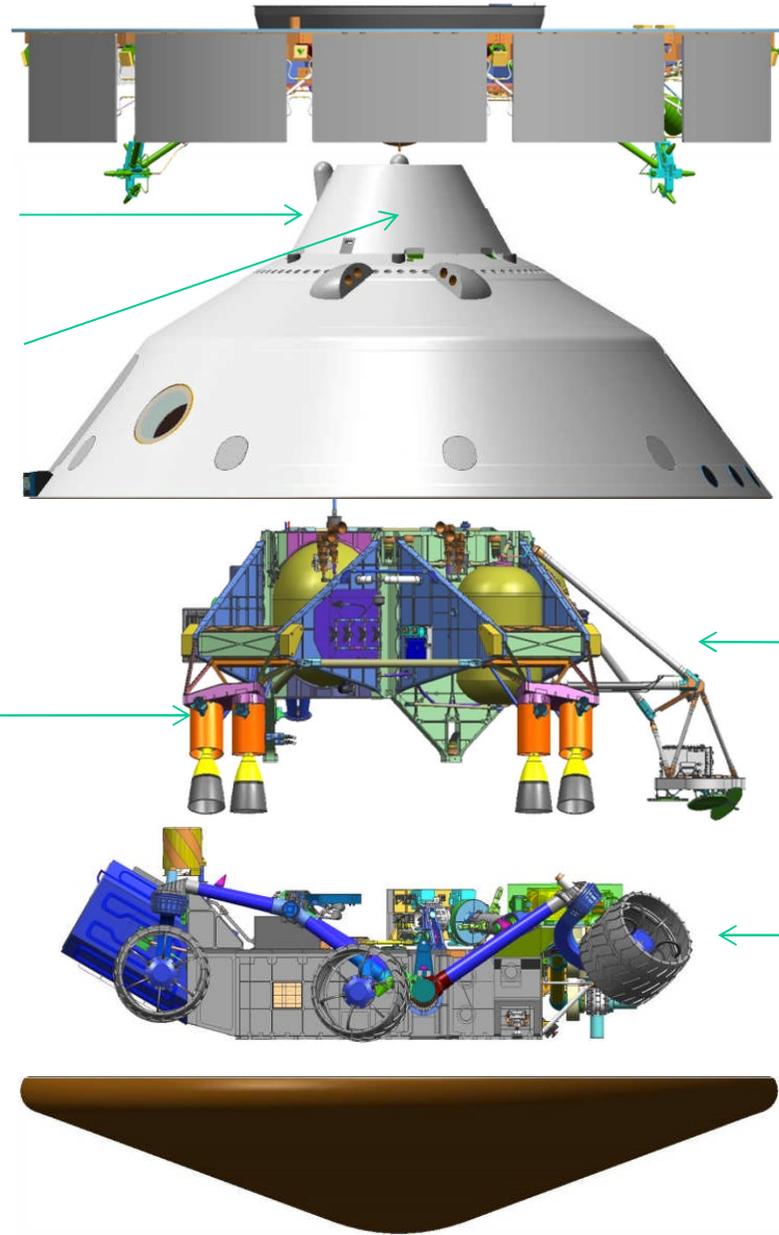


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Back Shell Interface  
Plate Support  
Structure

Parachute

Bridle Umbilical  
Device



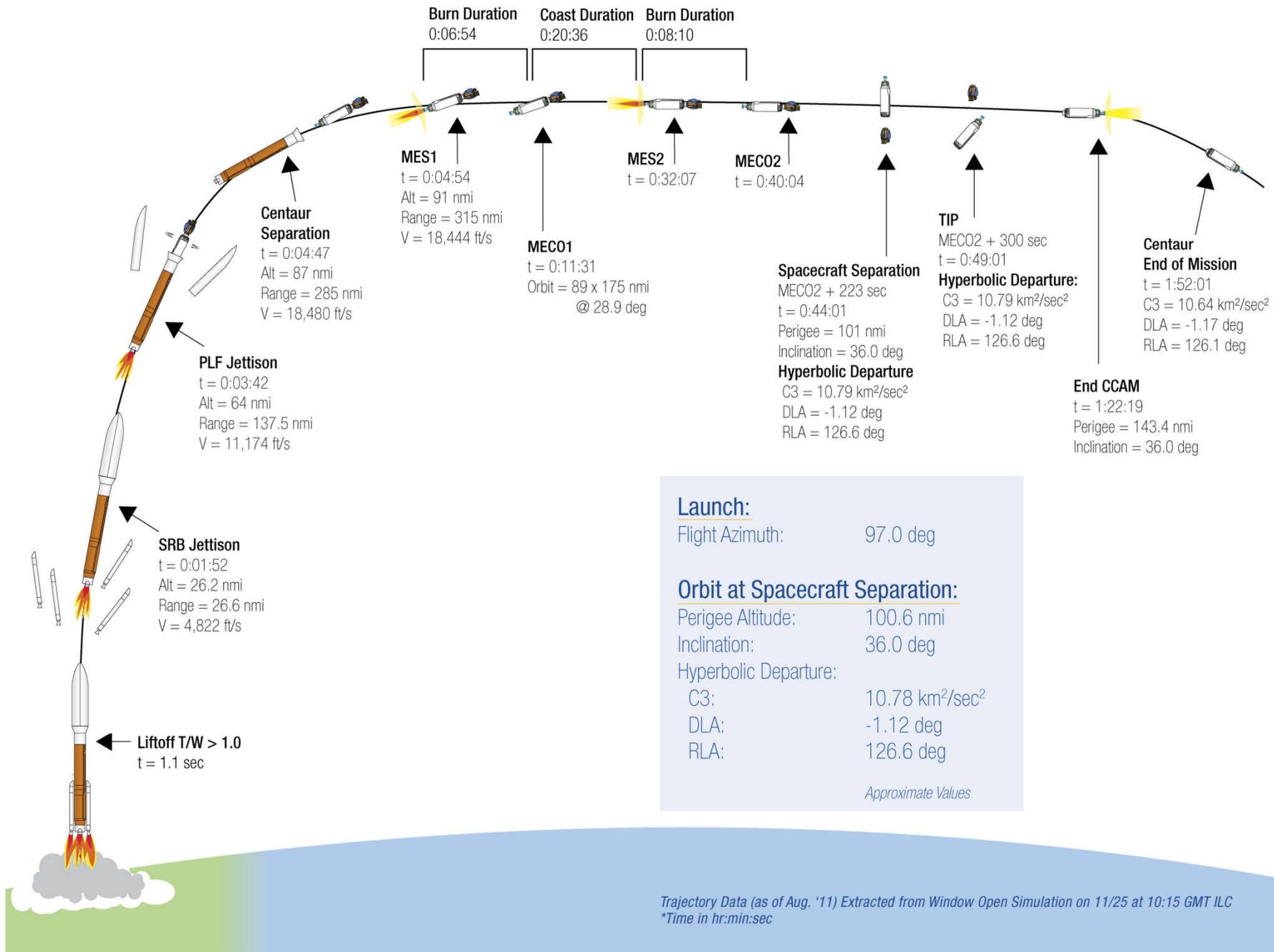
Cruise Stage

Back Shell

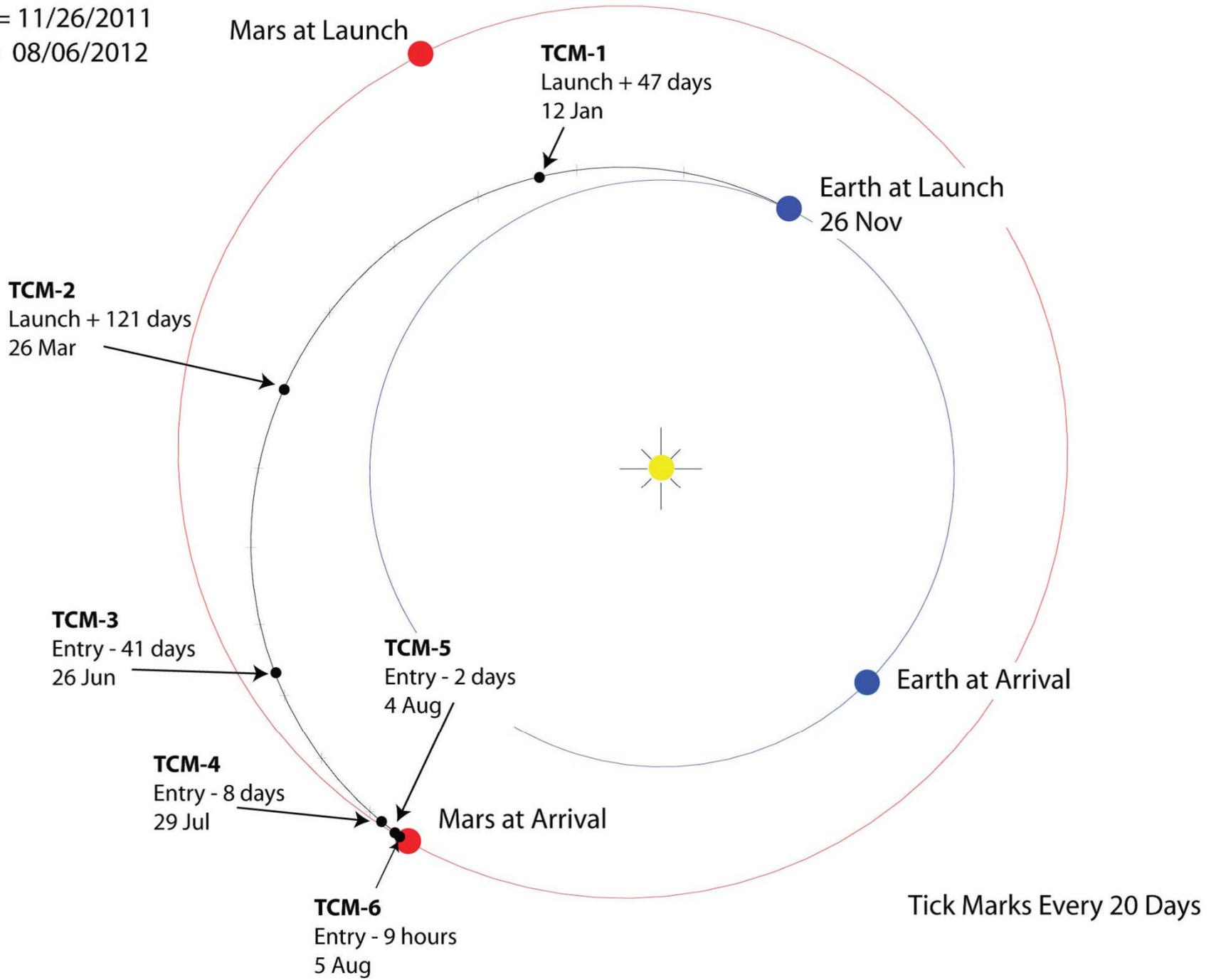
Descent Stage

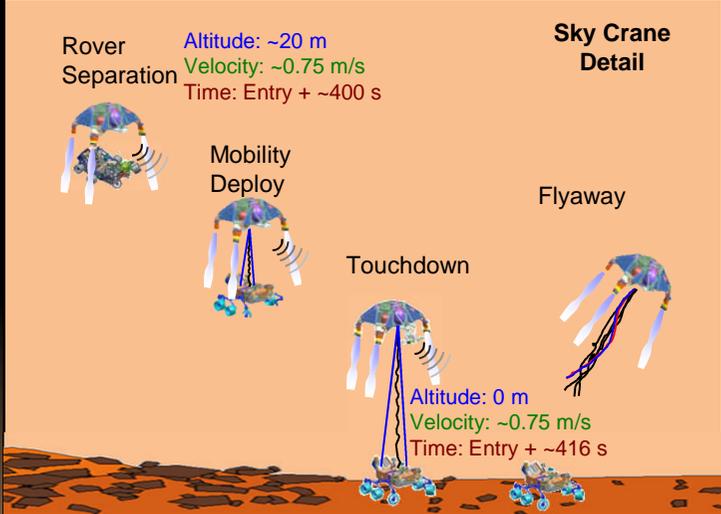
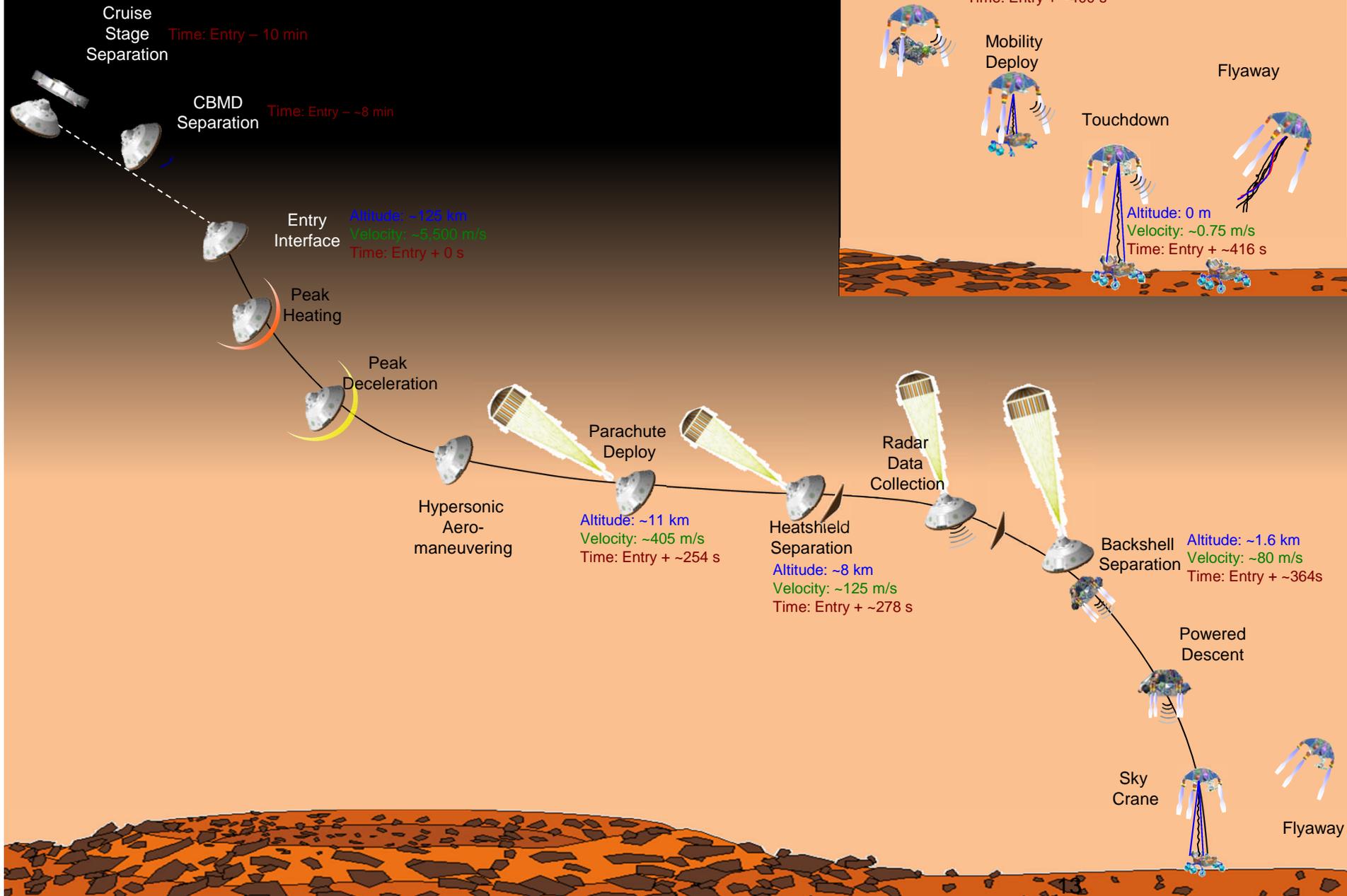
Rover

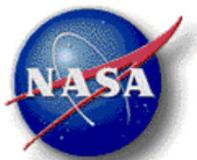
Heat Shield



Launch= 11/26/2011  
Arrival= 08/06/2012



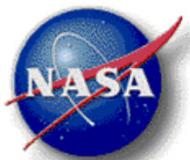




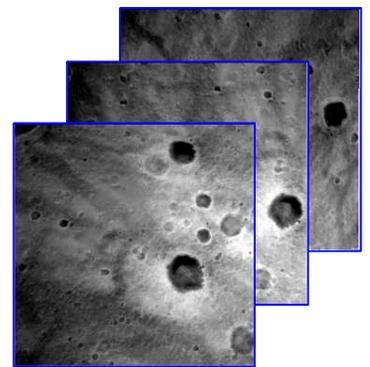
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**High-Resolution Self-Portrait by Curiosity Rover Arm Camera on Sol 84 (Oct. 31, 2012)**



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visible descent imaging



## Lander Vision System

camera

Inertial Measuring Unit

flash lidar

FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array)

processor

8kg 65W CBE  
m  
prototype  
ready 10/2012

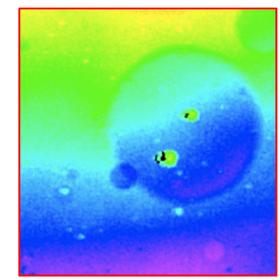
*bolt-on  
low bandwidth  
interface to  
spacecraft*

position: 100m  
velocity: 20cm/s  
altitude: 10cm  
hazards: 50cm

**Terrain Relative Navigation**  
image landmark matching

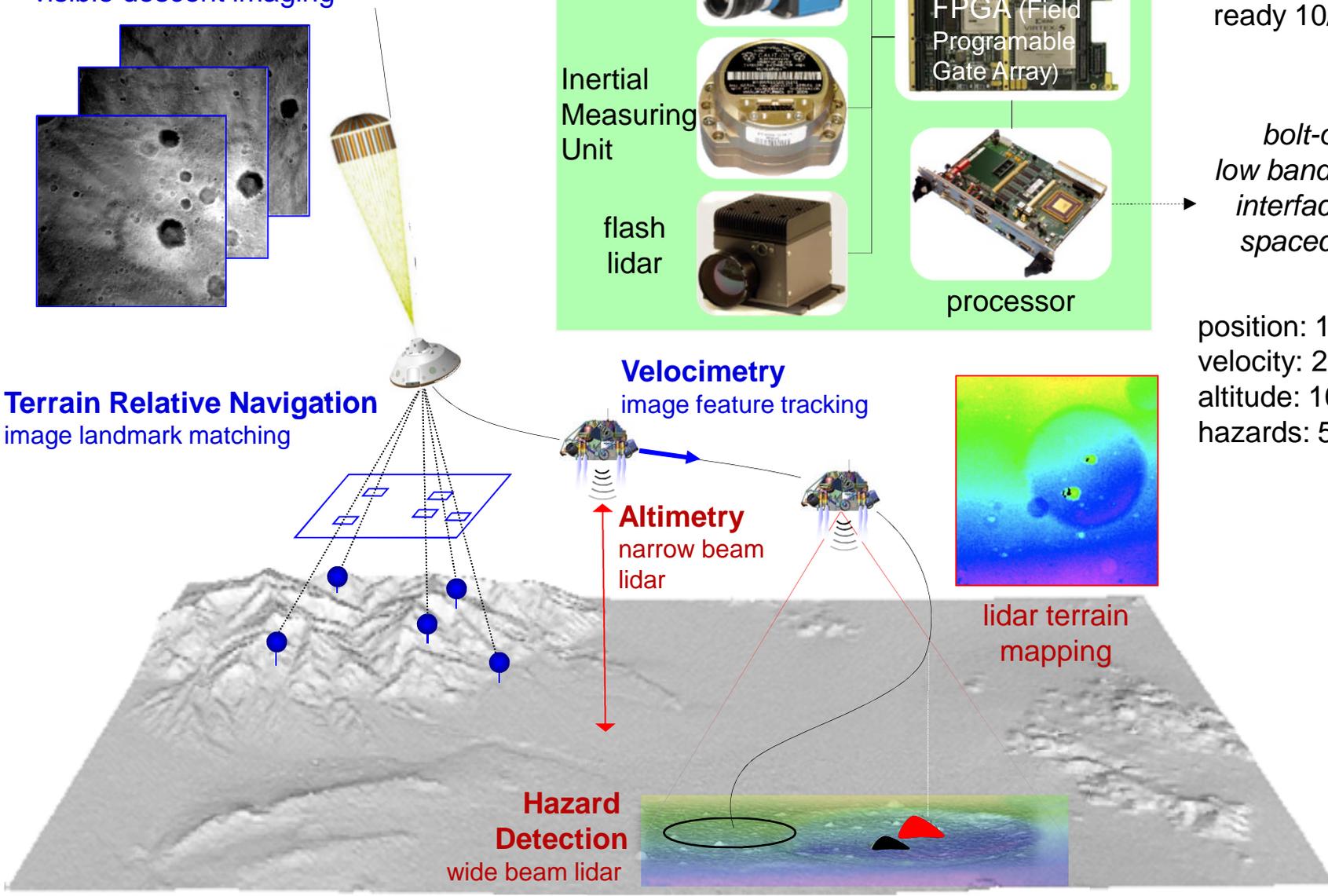
**Velocimetry**  
image feature tracking

**Altimetry**  
narrow beam  
lidar



lidar terrain  
mapping

**Hazard  
Detection**  
wide beam lidar





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# Technology Development:

- Dust Removal
- Energy Storage

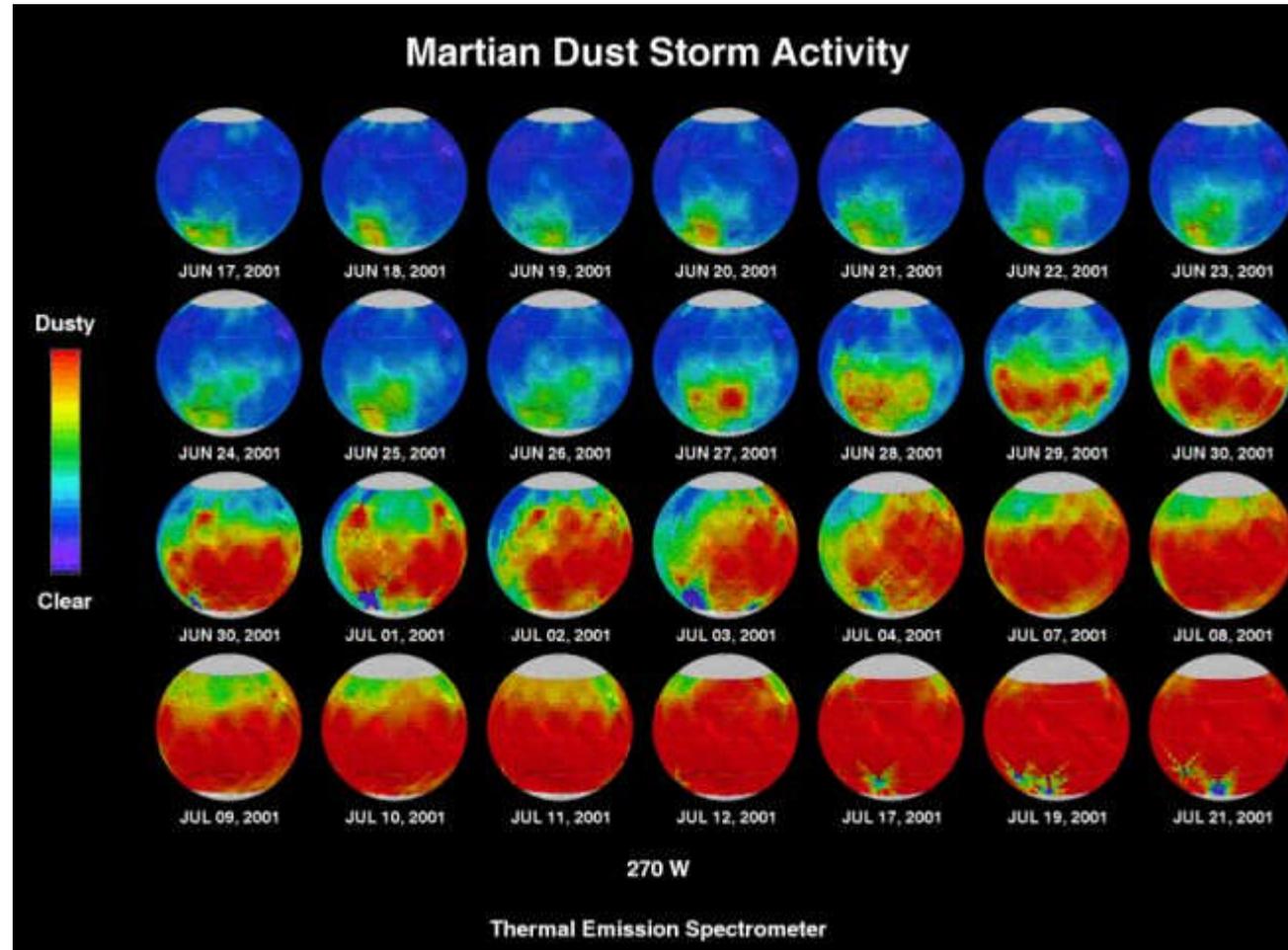


Engineers and scientists are working hard to develop the technologies astronauts will use to one day live and work on Mars, and safely return home from the next giant leap for humanity.



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# Martian Dust Storm

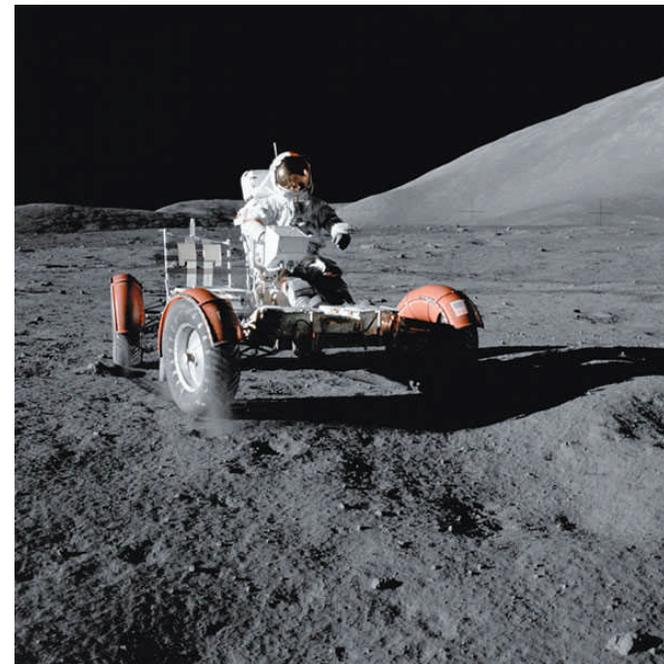




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# Lunar Environment

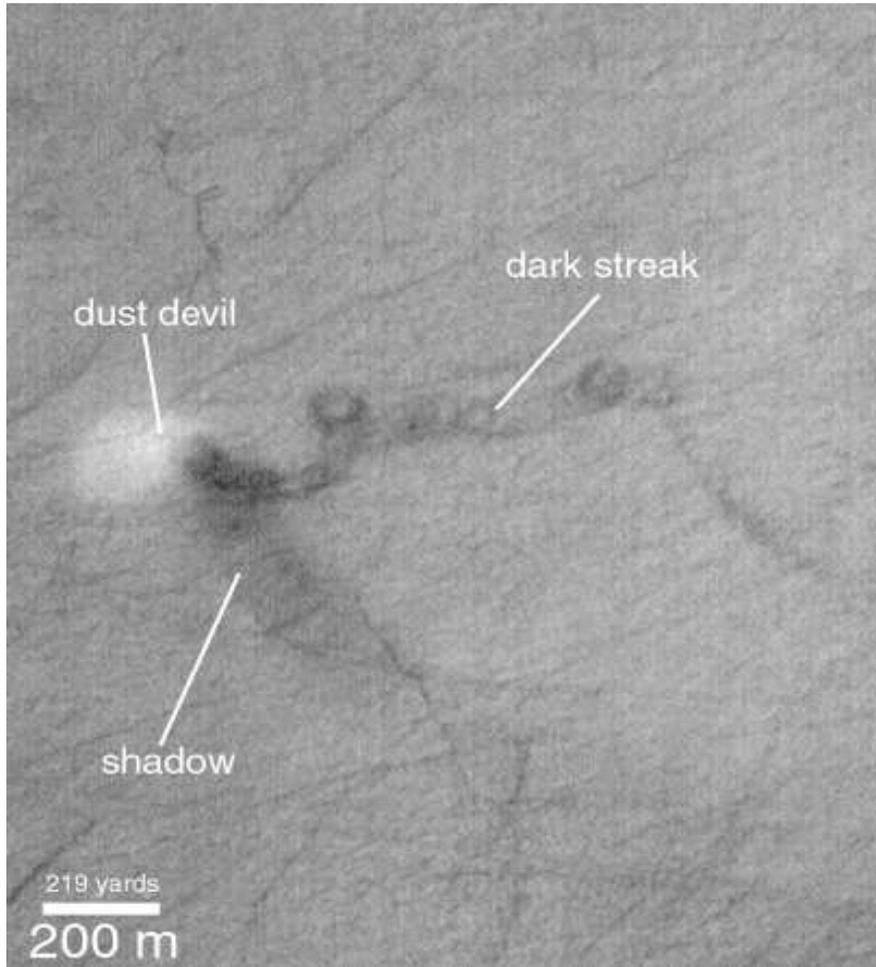
- Top layer of the lunar regolith is comprised of dust
- Lunar dust is an abrasive powder that clings to space suits, robots, and virtually all machinery
- Apollo 12, November 1969:
  - A total of 3 hours, 31 minutes were spent on the lunar surface before the LM ascent engine fired for liftoff
  - Lunar dust tracked into the LM became a problem
  - Since the dust became weightless after liftoff from the Moon, the astronauts had trouble breathing without their helmets.



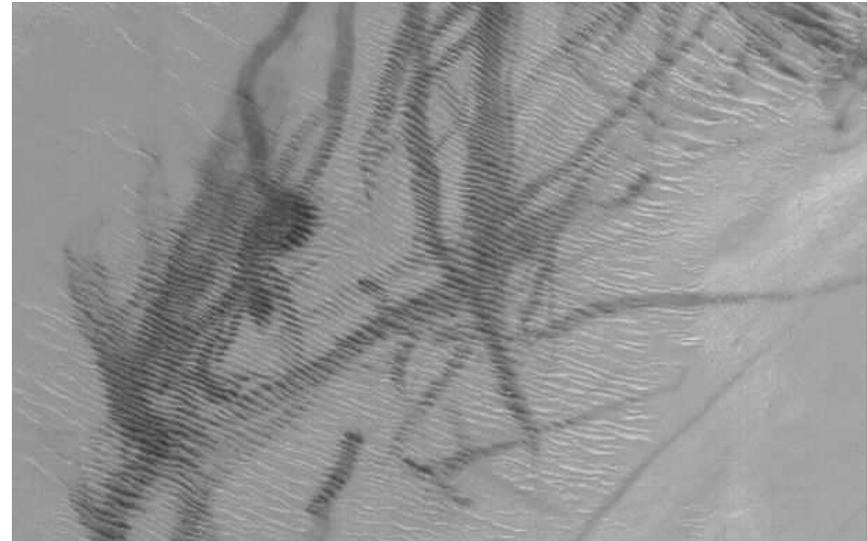


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# Martian Dust Devils



Martian dust devil (left) and dust devil tracks (below) photographed from orbit

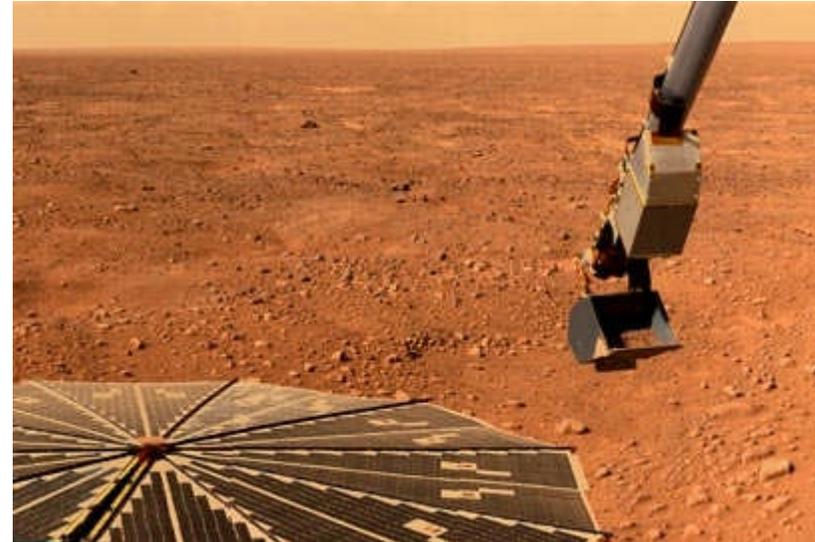




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# Martian Dust Environment

- Estimates from optical data:  
Average dust particle in the  
Martian atmosphere:  $1.5 \mu\text{m}$  in  
diameter
- Average particle size changes with  
dust storm activity:
  - 2001: Derived particle data ranged  
from  $2$  to  $5 \mu\text{m}$
- Data from MI on Spirit &  
Opportunity (Landis et al 2006)
  - Suspended atmospheric dust:  $2\text{-}4 \mu\text{m}$
  - Settled dust uploaded by wind,  
diameter:  $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$
  - Saltating particles:  $\leq 80 \mu\text{m}$
- Particle in soil (MI on Spirit on  
Scamander crater)  $\sim 220 \mu\text{m}$

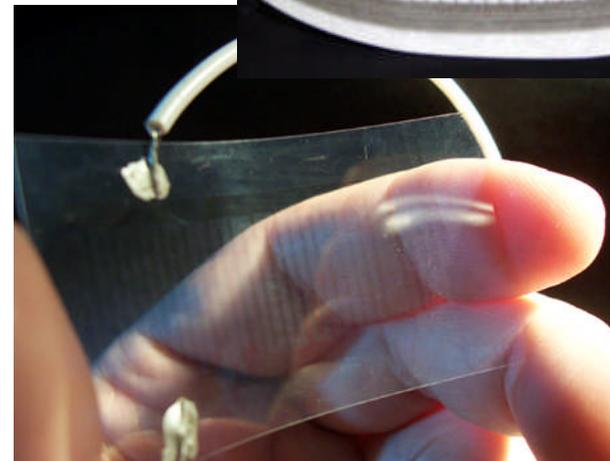
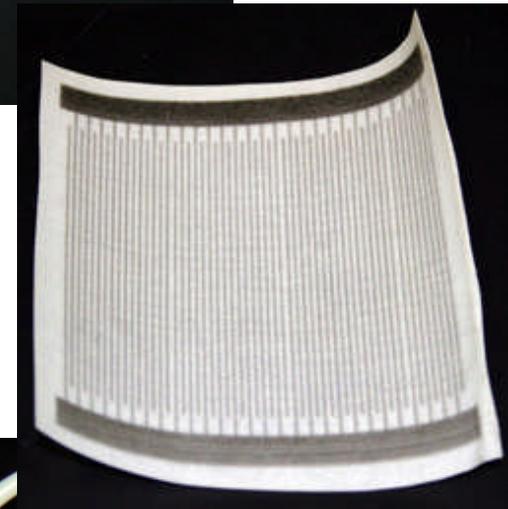


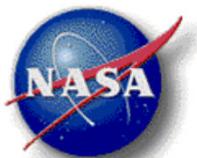


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# Electrodynamamic Dust Shield

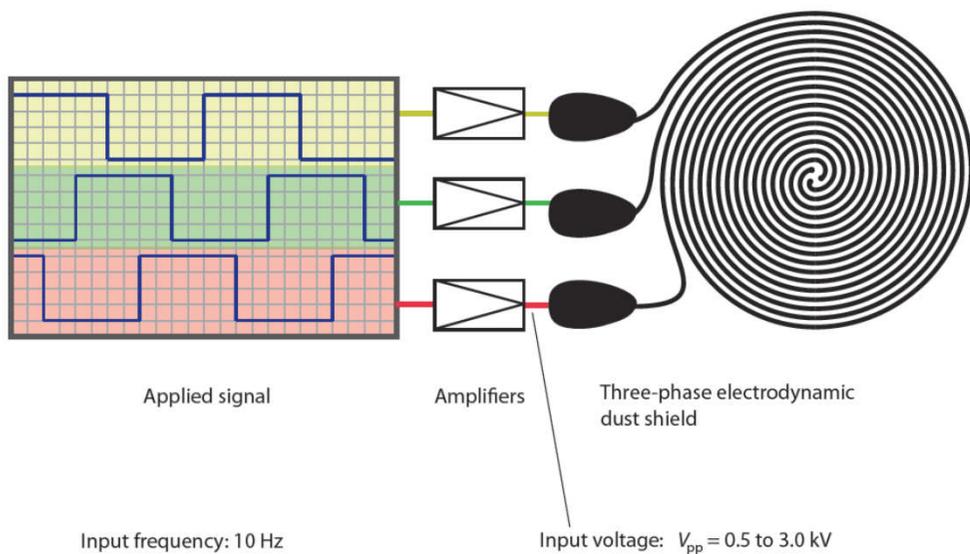
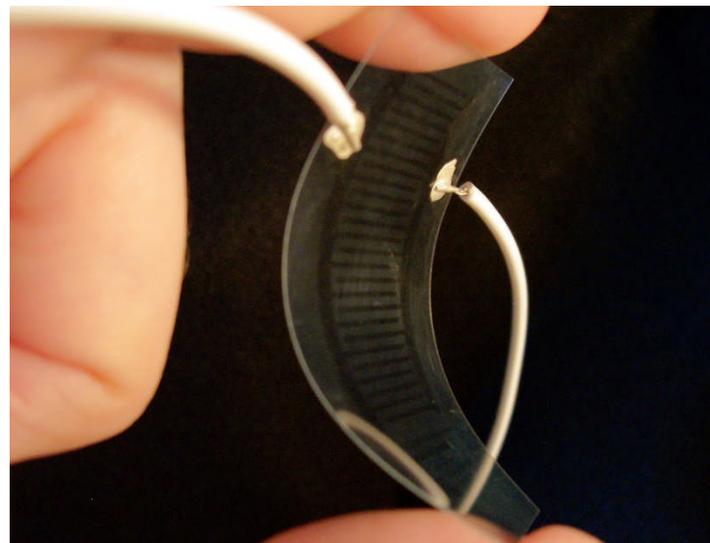
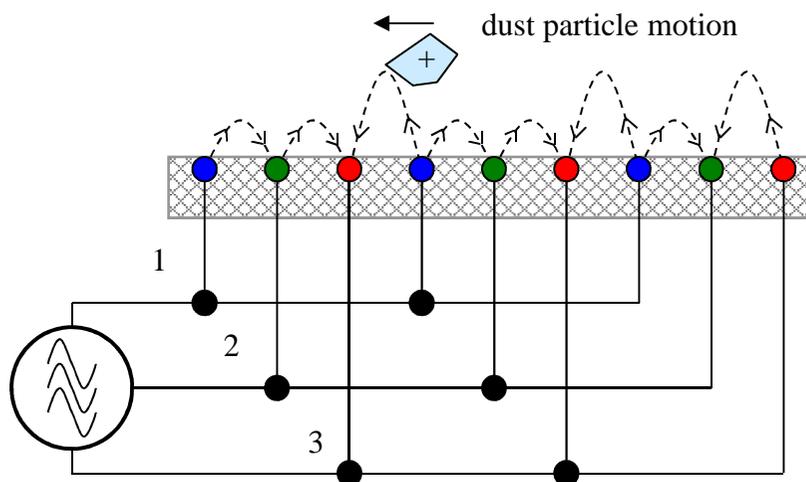
- With the EDS, Particles are removed by applying a multi-phase traveling electric field to electrodes that are embedded in the surface
- Electrodes:
  - Thin wires on opaque surfaces
  - CNT electrodes on fabric
  - Transparent, flexible electrodes on transparent surfaces for optical devices, windows, visors
- Applications developed:
  - Solar panels
  - Optical systems
  - Thermal radiators
  - Flexible films
  - Fabrics



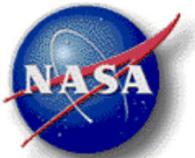


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# What's Under the Hood

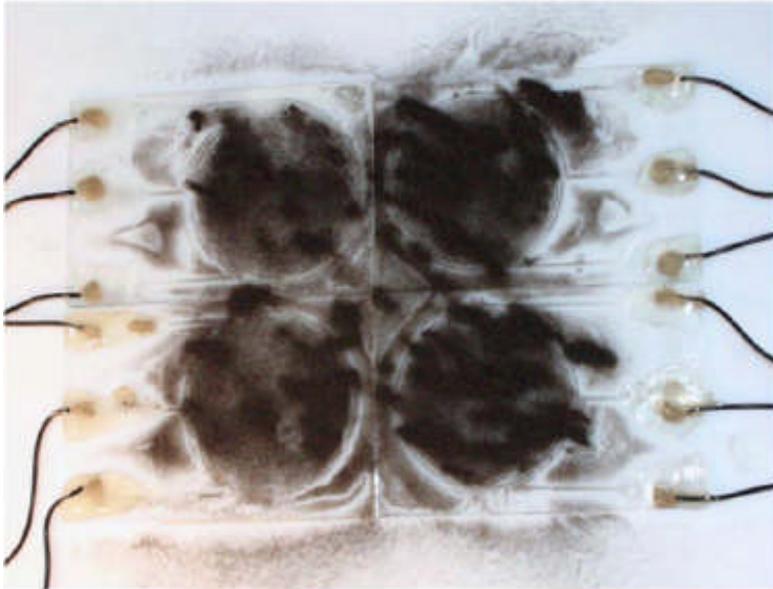


Three-phase dust shield with indium tin oxide transparent electrodes on a film (top) and glass substrate (bottom)

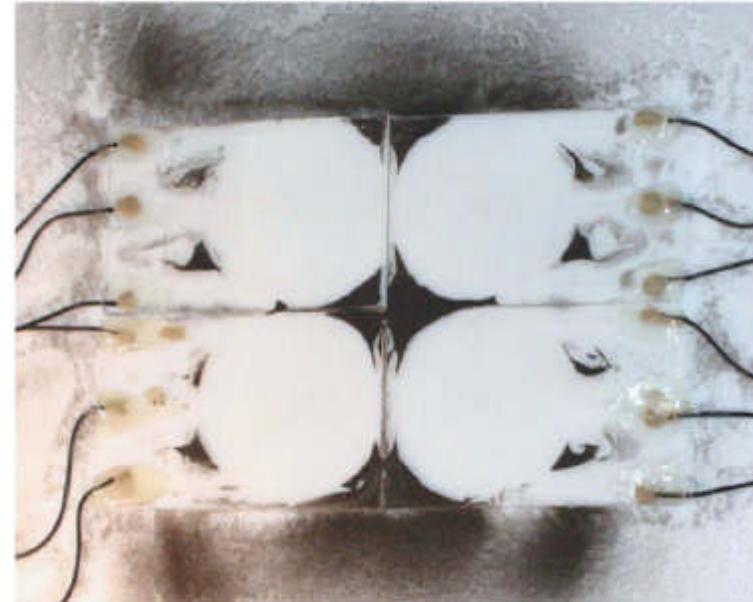


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# EDS for Optical Systems High Vacuum Testing



(a)



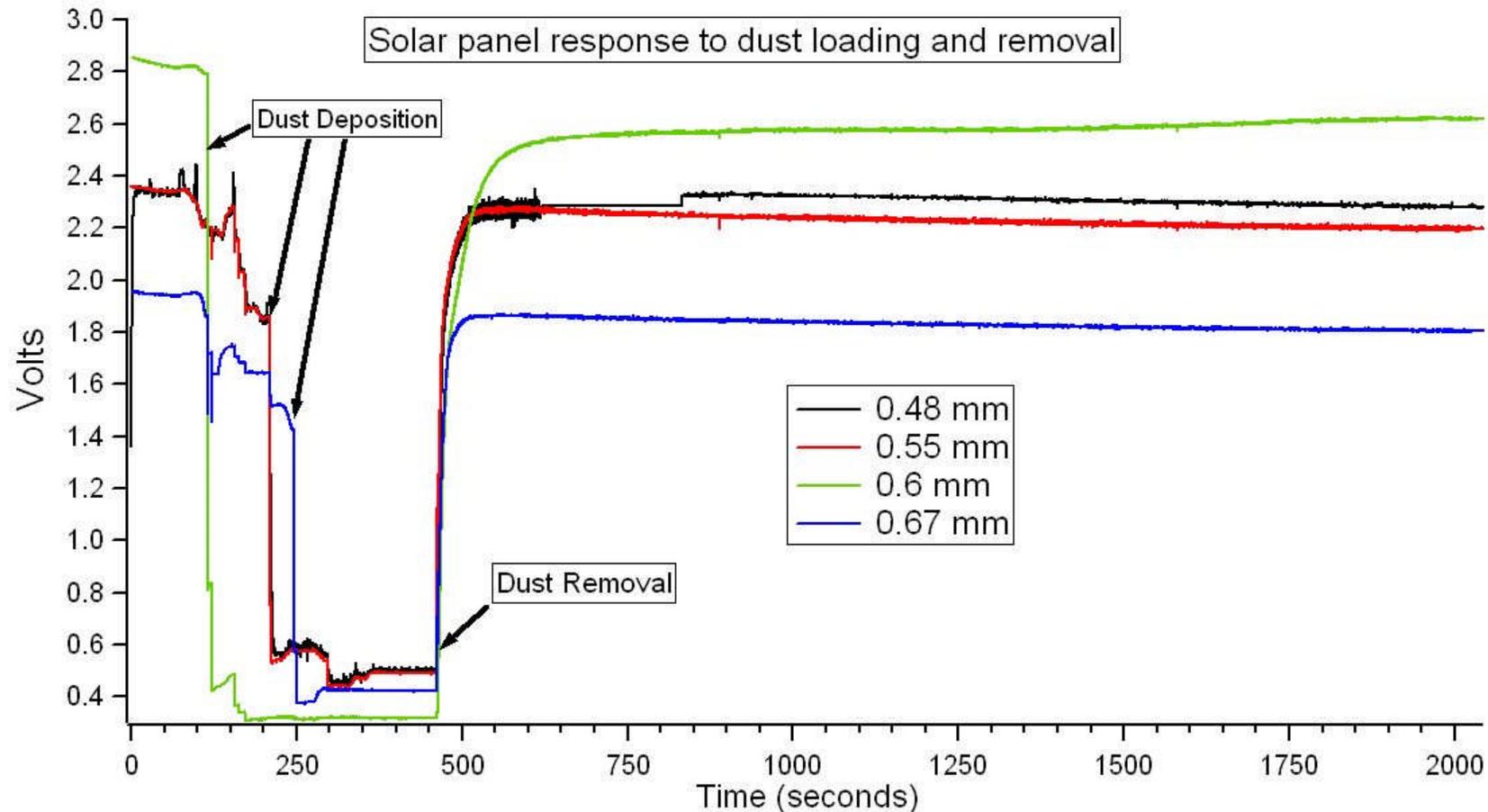
(b)

Transparent EDS coating on glass (a) before and (b) after dust removal at vacuum. Dust removal efficiencies are greater than 99%.



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# Solar Panel Response



Solar panel response to 20 mg, 50-75  $\mu\text{m}$  JSC-1A dust deposition and removal under high vacuum conditions. Removal was accomplished using Dust Shields of four different spacings.\*

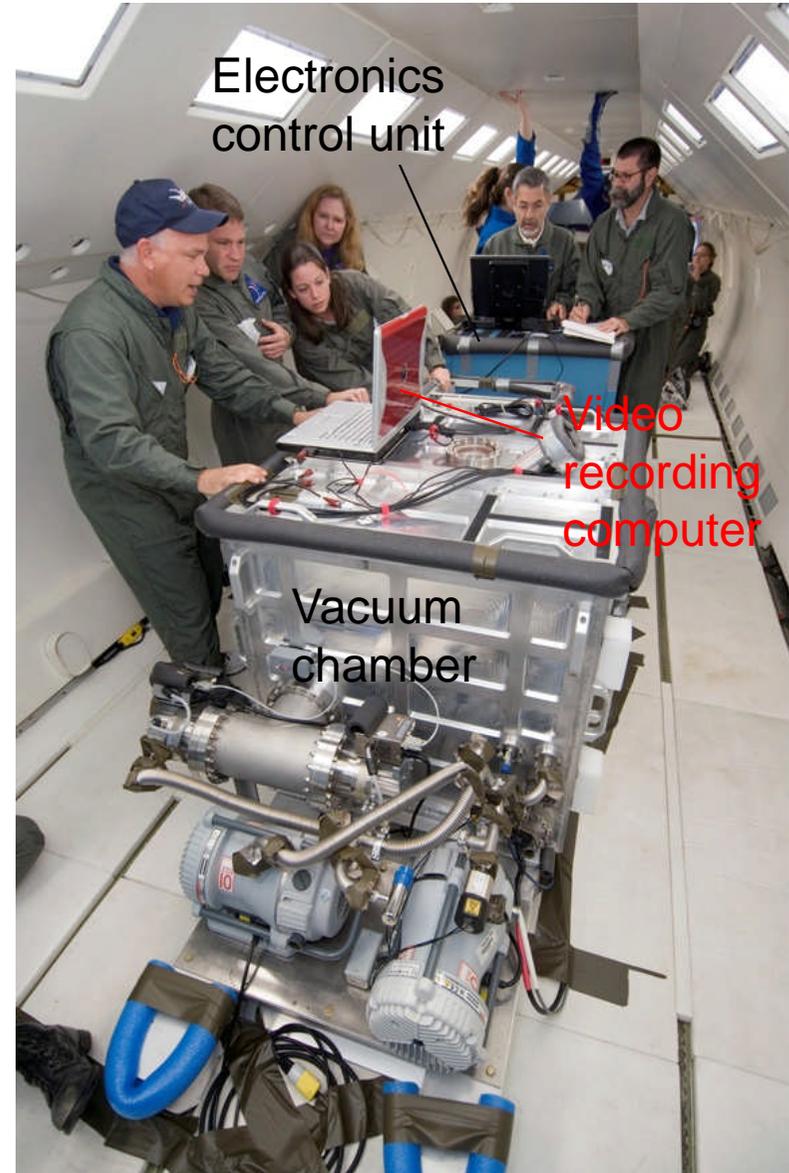
\* Calle, C.I., C.R. Buhler, J.L. McFall, and S.J. Snyder, "Particle removal by electrostatic and dielectrophoretic forces for dust control during lunar exploration missions," *Journal of Electrostatics* 67, 89-92 (2009)



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# Reduced Gravity Flight Experiments

- Experiments were performed under lunar and Martian gravity
- Four dust containment boxes with metal filters were used for each RGF

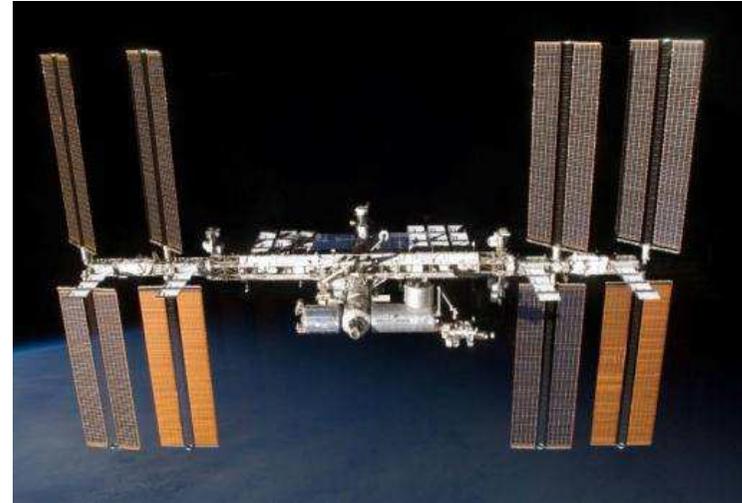




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# ISS Experiment

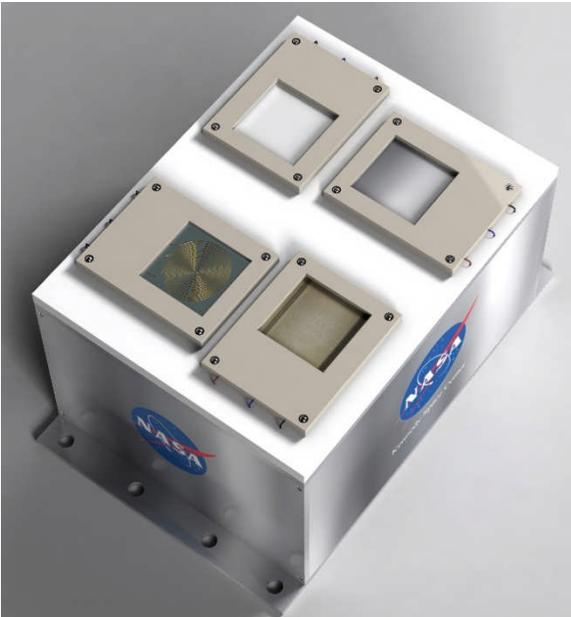
- The EDS has been extensively tested
  - In the laboratory under simulated lunar and Martian conditions:
  - On a reduced gravity flight at lunar and Martian gravity
- A flight experiment is being developed to fly on ISS as part of the Materials International Space Station experiment
  - MISSE is an external platform for space environmental effects
  - Will expose experiments to the ram, wake, zenith, and nadir directions
  - Our payload will face the wake direction, to expose the EDS panels to the space environment most closely resembling the lunar environment





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# Payload Concept





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# Mars Resource Utilization Demonstration



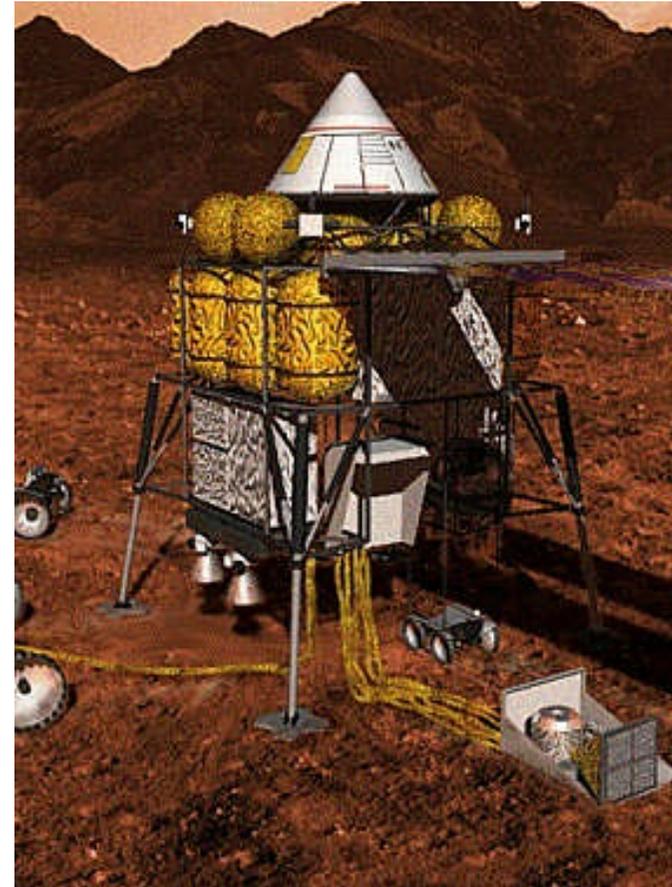
- Instrument package for demonstration on how to live off the land
- NASA intends to include an in-situ resource utilization (ISRU) experiment on its new Mars rover that would pull carbon dioxide from the planet's atmosphere, remove dust and other contaminants and prepare the gas for chemical processing into oxygen.
- Oxygen: For use in propulsion, life support, power systems



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# Living Off the Land

- NASA's ISRU Project:
  - production of
    - mission consumables
    - surface construction
    - manufacturing and repair
    - space utilities and power
- Oxygen, methane, and water production from Martian atmospheric gas requires prior dust removal
- Electrostatic Precipitator that works at 1/100 of an atmosphere



ISRU plant for vehicle propellant production



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# New Energy Storage Devices

## Current missions: Hubble Space Telescope

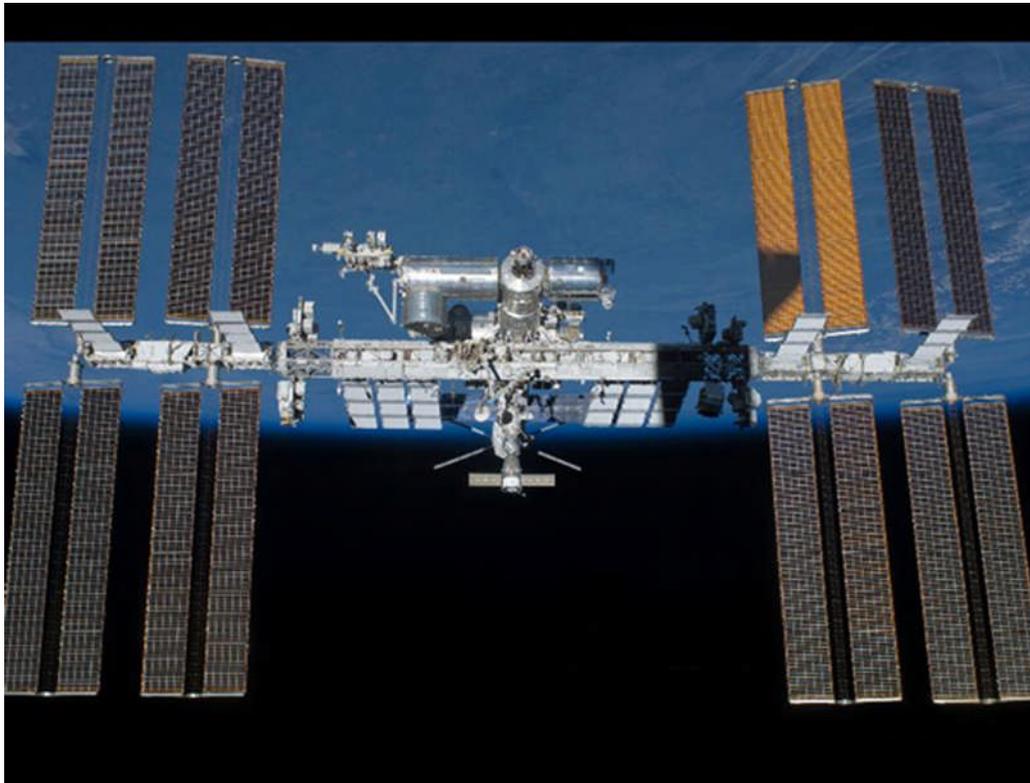


- Nickel-hydrogen (Ni-H<sub>2</sub>)
- Charge-use cycle of 97 minutes
- Reliable
- Deep discharge capability



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# International Space Station



- Nickel-hydrogen (Ni-H<sub>2</sub>)
- Charge-use cycle of 90 minutes
- Expected replacement to lithium in 2017
- One lithium ORU to replace two nickel-hydrogen ORU's



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# Curiosity/Mars Science Laboratory



- Lithium
- Charge-use cycle multiple times per day
- Peak power demands exceed MMRTG power Source

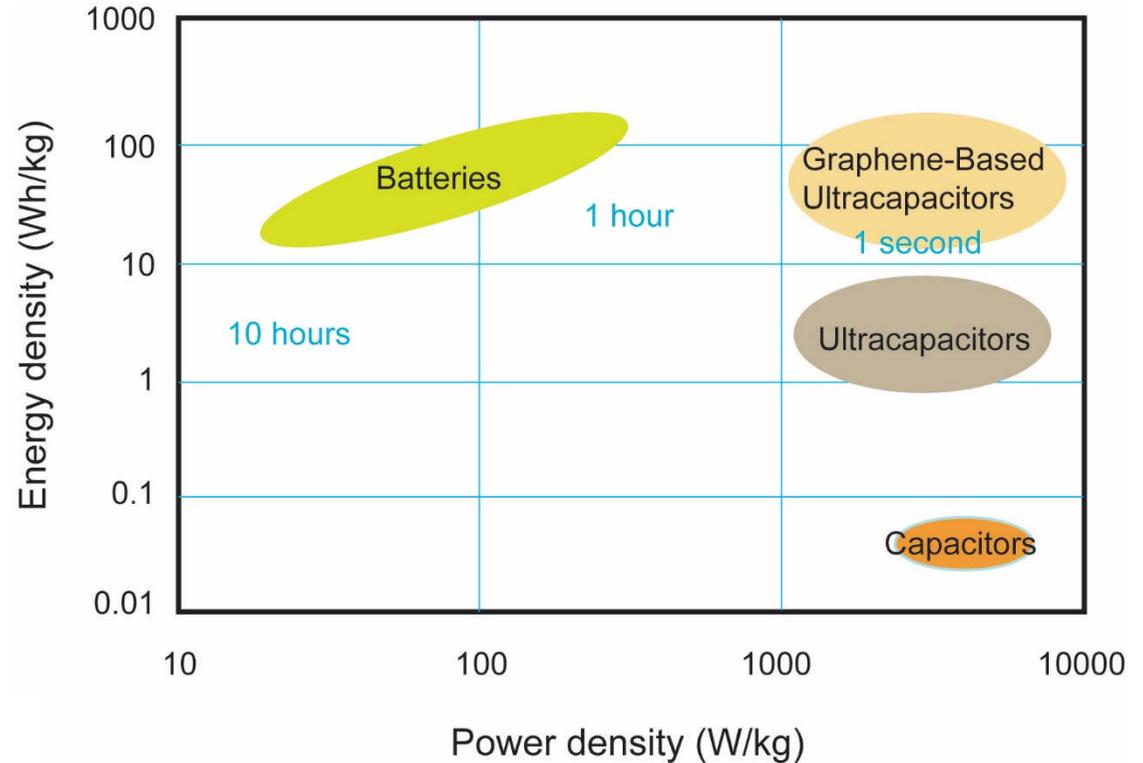


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# Graphene-Based Supercapacitors

Graphene-based ultracapacitors:

- High power densities
- High energy densities



**supercapacitors**



**batteries**

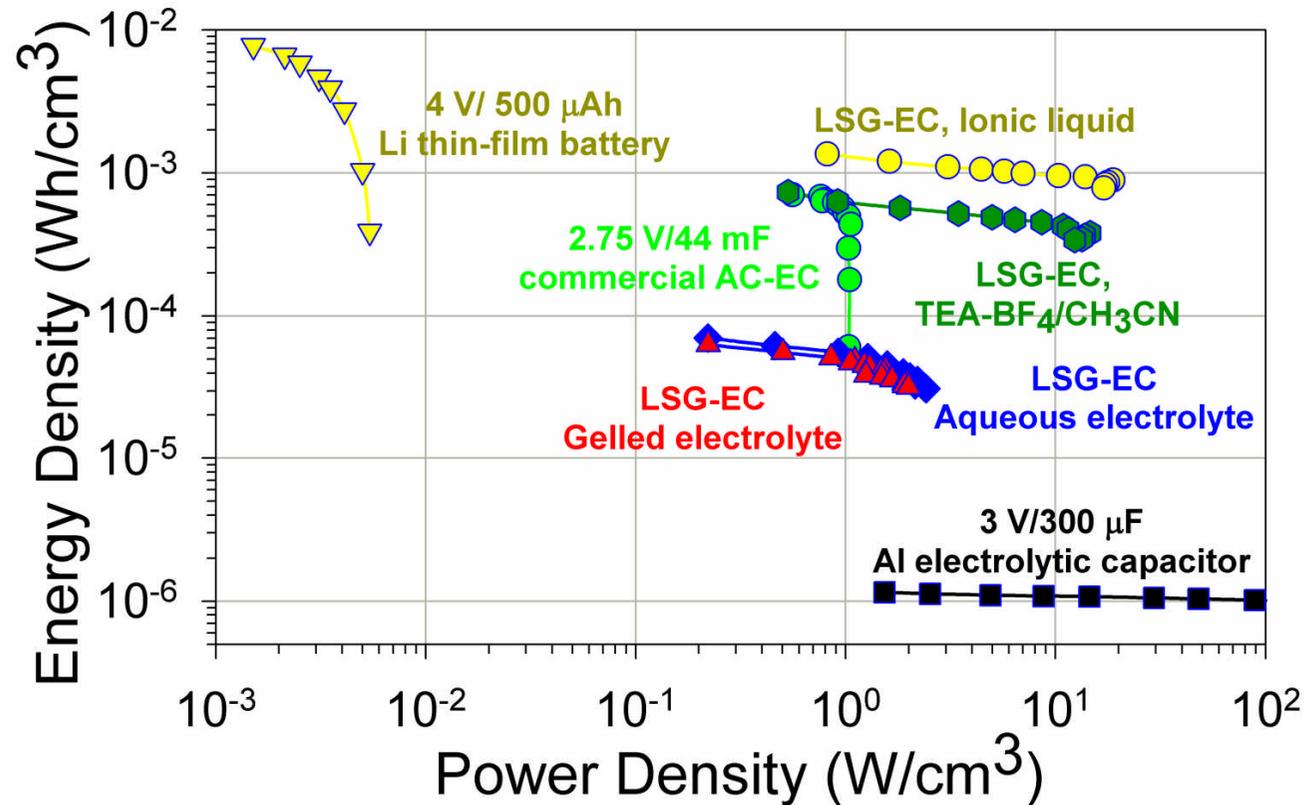


Energy and power density comparison for batteries, conventional ultracapacitors, and the expected performance of graphene-based ultracapacitors. Charging times are shown in blue.



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# Comparison of LSG, AC, Thin-film Li

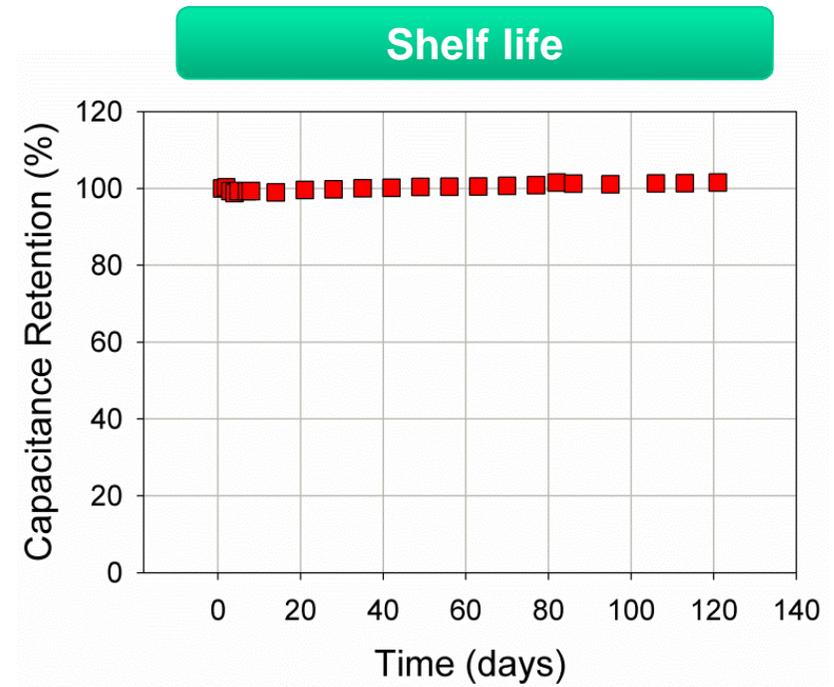
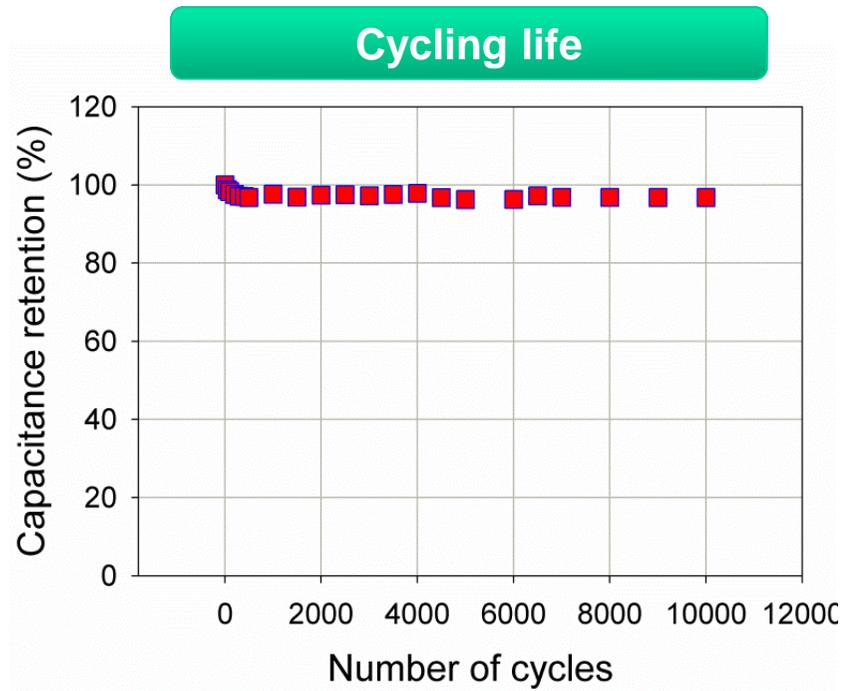


- The plot shows the energy density and power density of the stack for all the devices tested (including current collector, active material, electrolyte and separator).
- Additional features: flexible, lightweight, current collector free and binder free



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# Cycling and Shelf-Life





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# Space Applications

- Higher power density will enable a new class of operations
- Potential for much wider temperature operation: carbon melting point (4900K)
- Increased safety-margin due to reduced fire and toxicity risk
- In-situ resource available from regolith or waste stream



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# Mission Concept

## MARS SCIENCE LABORATORY "CURIOSITY"

- CRUISE STAGE
- ENTRY, DESCENT, LANDING
- SURFACE OPERATIONS



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4boyXQuUlw&feature=player\\_detailpage](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4boyXQuUlw&feature=player_detailpage)



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# The Team

- **NASA Team:**
  - Paul J. Mackey
  - Michael R. Johansen
- Michael D. Hogue, Ph.D.
  - James Phillips III
  - **UCLA Team:**
    - Richard Kaner, Ph.D.
    - Maher El-Kady, Ph.D.



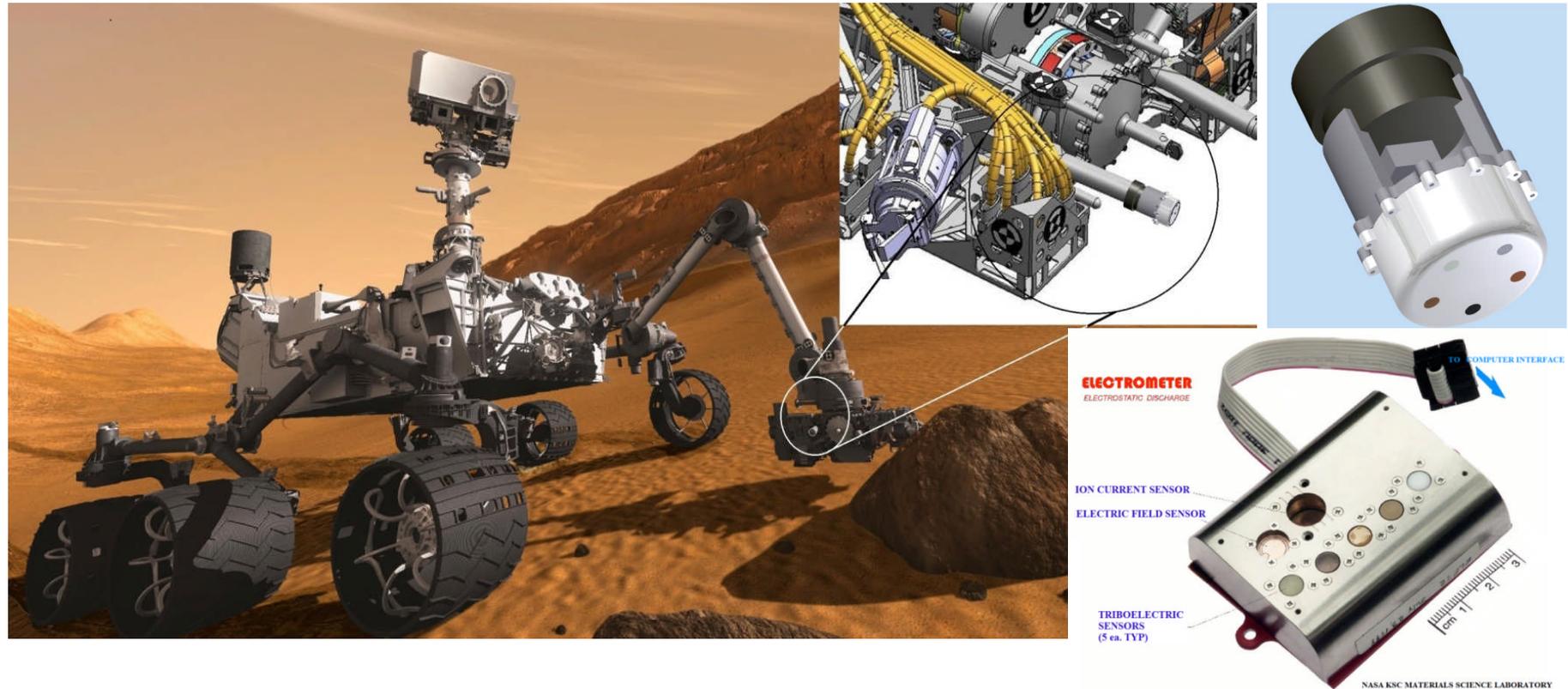
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# BACK UP SLIDES



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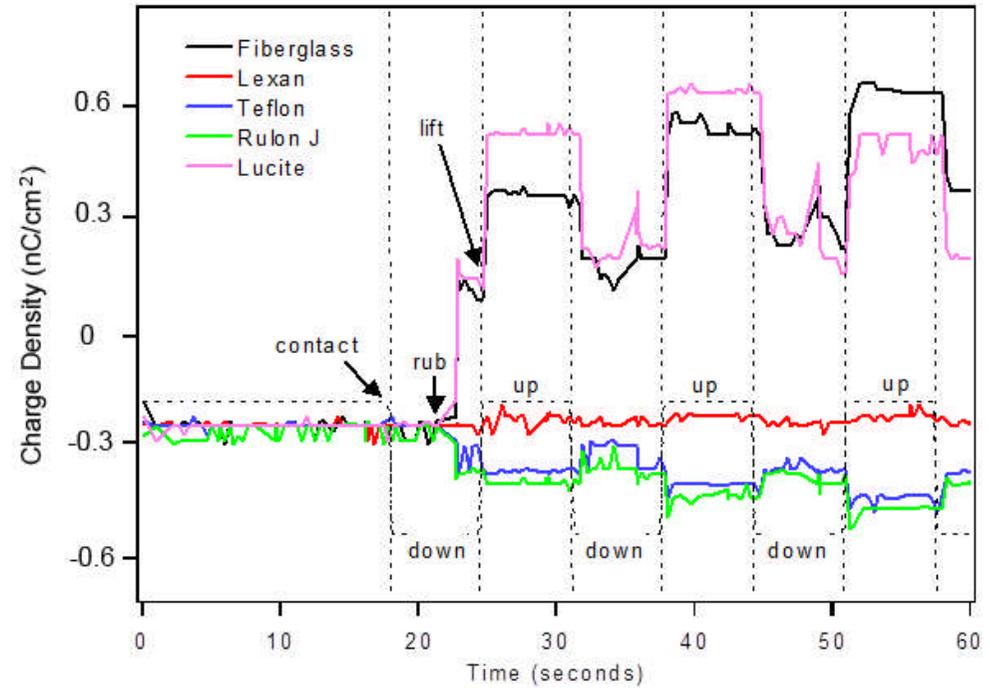
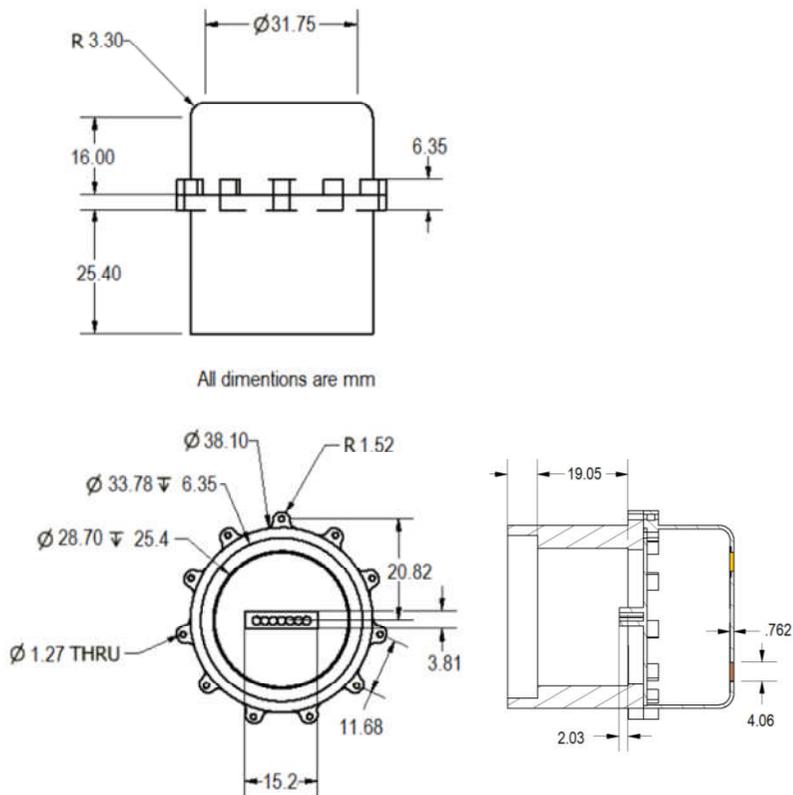
# KSC's Sensor Array



- Electrostatics Sensor Array instrument shown in possible location on Mars rover
- Instrument may be used in future Mars mission
- Able to identify differences in some properties of the minerals in the regolith
- It will aid in determination of places to deploy other instruments



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MECA electrometer in contact with simulant at Martian atmospheric conditions.