Entry, Descent, and Landing Case Studies

- Entry, Descent, and Landing overview
- Case study: Mars EDL
- Case study: Mars Exploration Rovers
- Case study: Mars Science Laboratory



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Apollo Landing







Dragon Landing







Soyuz Landing (Propulsive Decel)







Starliner Landing (Air Bags)









Shuttle in Gliding Landing









New Shepard Landing (Blue Origin)







Falcon 9 First Stage Landing







Mars Pathfinder/MER Landing Bags







MER Mission Overview Video

FOR MER PROJECT **USE ONLY**

DO NOT DUPLICATE OR DISTRIBUTE







MSL Skycrane Mars Landing System



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Human Landing System (SpaceX)









The Challenge of Mars EDL (Entry, Descent, and Landing)



Ron Sostaric NASA Johnson Space Center AIAA Senior Member April 2010





Aeromaneuvering

- Using atmospheric flight forces to affect orbit changes while minimizing propellents
- pass
- Aerobraking lowering apoapsis by atmospheric passes (single or multiple)
- Aeromaneuvering using aerodynamic forces (e.g., lift) to perform advanced maneuvers such as plane change



Aerocapture - decelerating into planetary orbit from a single

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Why is Mars EDL so difficult?



ATMOSPHERE:

- Thin Martian atmosphere (surface density equivalent to Earth's at 30 km)
- Atmosphere is thick enough to create significant heating during entry
- Too little atmosphere to decelerate and land like we do at Earth ٠





Atmospheric Thermal Profiles



from Justus and Braun, "Atmospheric Environments for Entry, Descent, and Landing", 5th International Planetary Probes Workshop, August 2006



Some Applications of Entry Aerodynamics ENAE 791 – Launch and Entry Vehicle Design

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Atmospheric Density Profiles



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

5th International Planetary Probes Workshop, August 2006



Mars EDL History

All six of the successful U.S. Mars EDL systems had:

- Low Landing Site: elevation sites below −1 km MOLA ← that's Mars Sea Level
- Low Mass: Had landed masses of less than 0.6 MT
- UNGUIDED: Had large uncertainty in targeted landing location (300 km for Mars Pathfinder, 80 km for MER)

Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) '11 EDL Architecture:

- Low Landing Site: Landed elevation requirement for sites below 0 km MOLA Low Mass: Has landed mass of 0.9 MT
- GUIDED: Has uncertainty in targeted landing location of 10km



HUMANS need more capability:

- All of the current Mars missions have relied on large technology investments made in the late 1960s and early 1970's as part of the Viking Program (heatshield shape, thermal protection material, and parachute) Large Mass (Entry Mass of ~100 – 150 MT)
- Higher elevations interesting science
- Precision Landing



6 U.S. Mars Entry, Descent, and Landing Successes





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Current Mars Accessibility

Previous Viking derived EDL systems and the thin Martian atmosphere and small scale height have limited accessible landing sites to those below -1.0km MOLA

To date the southern hemisphere has been largely out of reach (approximately 50% of the planet surface remains inaccessible with current EDL technologies)





Landing Site Elevation / Accessibility

MOLA 1/4° Topographic Data



< 1.0 km (65% of Surface)









< -1.0 km (45% of Surface)



Mars Heritage Aeroshell - Mission Comparisons

Core Viking Technologies: 70° sphere-cone aeroshell

Parameter	Viking	MPF	MER	Phoenix	MSL
Entry Mass (kg) / Ballistic Coeff. (kg/m ²)	980 / 66	585 / 63	836 / 90	603 / 65	3257 / 140
Lander/Rover Mass (kg)	612	11	173	64	850
Aeroshell Diameter (m)	3.5	2.65	2.65	2.65	4.5
Angle-of-Attack (deg) / L/D	11.1°/0.18	0°/0.0	0°/0.0	0°/0.0	-15.5° / 0.24
Peak Heatrate (W/cm ²)	21	106	44	59	<210
Parachute Diameter (m)	16.15	12.4	14.1	11.5	19.7
Landing Site Elevation (km)	-3.5	-1.5	-1.3	-3.5	0.0





EDL Phase Plot – A Handy Way to Visualize EDL



Robotic program: No gap so far





How would Humans Land?





EDL Technology Development

- Technologies that can help close the "gap"
 - Rigid Aeroshell
 - Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (IAD) _
 - Supersonic Retro-Propulsion
- Other technologies of interest
 - Aerocapture _
 - Precision Landing _
 - Hazard Detection and Avoidance _



Rigid Aeroshells











Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerators









Low-Density Supersonic Decelerator







LDSD Flight Test Profile









Supersonic Retropropulsion

Powered flight through Mars-relevant retropropulsion regime







Viking Parachute Configuration

- "Disk-Gap-Band" (DGB) or "bandgap" parachute
- Deployed at Mach 2
- Had to have sufficient deceleration to allow jettison of heat shield and dropping of lander from aeroshell

from Cruz and Lingard, "Aerodynamic Decelerators for Planetary Exploration: Past, Present, and Future", AIAA 2006-6792, AIAA Guidance, Navigation, and Control Conference, August 2006





Viking Chute Drag Coefficient Model



from Cruz and Lingard, "Aerodynamic Decelerators for Planetary Exploration: Past, Present, and Future", AIAA 2006-6792, AIAA Guidance, Navigation, and Control Conference, August 2006



Mach Number



Terminal Velocity

Full form of ODE -

At terminal velocity, $v = \text{constant} \equiv v_T$

 $d(v^2)$

d
ho

 $\frac{h_s}{\beta \sin}$





$$\frac{h_s}{\beta\sin\gamma}v^2 = \frac{2gh_s}{\rho}$$

$$\frac{-v_T^2}{\gamma} = \frac{2gh_s}{\rho}$$

$$\int \frac{2g\beta\sin\gamma}{\rho}$$



Viking Terminal Velocity Under Chute

$$\beta = \frac{m}{c_D A} = \frac{930 \ kg}{0.62 \left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) (16.15 \ m)^2} = 7.322 \ \frac{kg}{m^2}$$

$$v_T = \sqrt{-\frac{2g\beta\sin\gamma}{\rho}} = \sqrt{-\frac{2(3.711\ m/s^2)(7.322\ kg/m^2)\sin(-30^o)}{0.02\ kg/m^3}} = 36.9\ \frac{m}{sec}$$

$$\beta_{crit} = -\frac{\rho_o h_s}{\sin \gamma} = -\frac{0.02 \ kg/m^3(10,800 \ m)}{\sin(-30^o)} = 432 \ \frac{kg}{m^2}$$

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Rigid and Inflatable Aeroshell vs. Chute







Low Ballistic Coefficient Hypersonic Decelerator **Development Challenges**

- For 50-100 MT entry masses we need a 20-40 m diameter aeroshell. .
- Large uncertainties (unknown-unknowns):
 - Lift control (how to modulate drag) with large density uncertainties
 - Dynamic stability issues at supersonic and transonic conditions _
 - Subsonic position correction _
 - Subsonic separation mechanism _

Specifically for an Inflatable Hypersonic Decelerator:

- Lift control
- RCS
- Fluid structures interactions
- Light weight flexible TPS with large radiative heating _

Specifically for a Rigid On-orbit-deployed Hypersonic Decelerator:

- Mass fraction of Aeroshell & deployment device _
- Again, there are NO Earth analog for these systems.
 - NASA, Russia and ESA have tested very small scale inflatable Earth entry systems (IRVE, IRDT)



What about Large Inflatable Entry Vehicles? (ballistic coefficient = $50 \text{ kg/m}^2 \& L/D = 0.3$)



Supersonic Retro-Propulsion

Advantages:

- ٠
- Control authority and altitude from Mach > 3 to the ground ٠
- Fewer complex systems (e.g.parachutes, deployable systems) ٠

Disadvantages:

- Large propellant mass fractions ٠
- ٠
- RCS / flow interactions ٠
 - Aerodynamic / propulsion flow interactions
 - Plume / flow aeroheating
- Surface contamination issues



More precise landing – aerodynamics / winds now secondary effect



Aerodynamic stability of the vehicle plume and flow impingements



Potential Exploration Architectures

Some possible combinations...





The Case for Precision Landing, Hazard Avoidance, and Pinpoint Landing





Precision Landing

- Precision landing is the capability to land very accurately
- Requires very good knowledge of the vehicle state (navigation) at the right time, in addition to the ability to correct for state errors (guidance and control)
- A combination of sensors including star tracker, inertial measurement unit (IMU), altimeter, and velocimeter are used for state estimation
- Terrain Relative Navigation is a technology being developed for the Moon and Mars which may enable a precision landing level of performance





Hazard Detection and Avoidance (HDA)

- HDA is the capability to detect and avoid hazards during the landing
 An onboard hazard map is developed real time during the descent using
- An onboard hazard map is develop flash LIDAR
- The flash LIDAR returns a 3-D image of the landing area which contains higher resolution information of the landing area than currently possible using orbit reconnaissance
- An updated landing point is then selected (either automatically or via crew intervention) and the vehicle re-targets to the new landing point





Viking Panoramas (1976)









Mars Pathfinder Rover ("Sojourner")







Mars Exploration Rover







Opportunity Landing Targeting







MER-B: RADIOMETRIC LANDER POSITIONING



Sometimes the Bounces Go Your Way...







...Opportunity Scores a Hole in One







Spirit Lands in Gusev Crater







Odyssey Finds its Heat Shield...







Mars Phoenix Lander Touchdown







Mars Rovers (Past, Present, Future)











Mars Science Laboratory **Project Introduction**

Richard Cook Project Manager

December 7, 2005

Project Overview



Salient Features Mobile Science Laboratory One Mars Year surface operational lifetime (669 sols/687 days) Discovery Responsive over wide range of latitudes and altitudes Controlled Propulsive Landing Precision Landing via Guided Entry

<u>Science</u>

Mission science will focus on Mars habitability Next generation analytical laboratory science investigations Remote sensing/contact investigations Suite of Environmental Monitoring Instruments Mars Science Laboratory





MSL-MER Comparison



	MSL	MER
LV/Launch Mass	Delta 4/Atlas V/3600 kg	Delta II/1050 kg
Design Mission Life	1 yr cruise/2 yrs surface	7m cruise/3 mo surface
Redundancy	Redundant Surface, Single String Cruise/EDL	Limited/Dual Mission
Payload	10 instruments (75 kg)	5 instrument (~9 kg)
Sample Acquisition	Arm + RAT + Corer + Scoop	Arm + RAT
Sample Processing	Rock Crusher	None
EDL System	Guided Entry/Skycrane	MPF Heritage/Airbags
Heatshield Diam	4.5 m	2.65 m
EDL Comm	UHF + Partial DTE or DTE	DTE + Partial UHF
Rover Mass	775 kg (allocation)	170 kg (actual)
Rover Range	>20 km	>5 km
Surface Power	RTG*/2500 Whr/sol	Solar/<900 Whr/sol
Surface Comm	X-band DTE + UHF	X-band DTE + UHF

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* - PreDecisional, RTG selection is contingent on NEPA/PD proces

MSL Rover Size Comparison





JPL 2009 MSL Rover



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Rover Engineering Capabilities



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Remote Sensing (Mast)

ChemCam – Laser Induced Breakdown Spectrometer MastCam - Color Stereo Imager

Contact Instruments (Arm)

MAHLI - Microscopic Imager

APXS - Proton/X-ray Backscatter Spectrometer

Analytical Laboratory (Front Chassis)



SAM - Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer/ Tunable Laser Spectrometer (Sample Composition / Organics Detection)

CheMin - X-ray Diffraction / Florescence (Sample Mineralogy)

Environmental Characterization (Body-mount)

MARDI - Descent Imager **REMS** - Meteorological monitoring **RAD - Surface Radiation Flux Monitor** (future human health & safety) DAN - Neutron Backscatter subsurface hydrogen (water/ice) detection

Flight System Design Overview

Presented at Mars Science Laboratory PMSR December 7-9, 2005

Christopher G. Salvo Flight System Engineering Manager

PRE-DECISIONAL DRAFT: For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only







propulsion service valves

MSL PMSR; December 7-9, 2005

Launch Configuration

Mars Science Laboratory Project

- 5m Fairing with 4.56 m internal envelope. \bullet
- 66" Payload interface to MSL Spacecraft. ۲
- RTG integration access
- Heat Rejection System (HRS) loading access •
- Emergency de-fueling access •



PRE-DECISIONAL DRAFT: For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only

CGS -





Jet Propulsion Laboratory



Cruise Configuration

Mars Science Laboratory Project

PRE-DECISIONAL DRAFT: For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only

CGS -



Jet Propulsion Laboratory



MSL PMSR; December 7-9, 2005

PRE-DECISIONAL DRAFT: For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only

Cruise Configuration: Bottom View

Mars Science Laboratory Project

Comparison of Coordinate Systems



Jet Propulsion Laboratory



Mars Science Laboratory Project



PRE-DECISIONAL DRAFT: For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only

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MSL PMSR; December 7-9, 2005

Cruise Stage Components Placement (1)

Mars Science Laboratory Project

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Cruise Stage Components Placement (2)

Mars Science Laboratory Project



Cruise Stage Dimensions

Jet Propulsion Laboratory



Mars Science Laboratory Project

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Cruise Stage Separation



Jet Propulsion Laboratory



Mars Science Laboratory Project









MSL PMSR; December 7-9, 2005 PRE-DECISIONAL DRAFT: For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only

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Aeroshell Overview

Mars Science Laboratory Project






Aeroshell Features

Mars Science Laboratory Project

Backshell Penetration	Locator	Size (mm)
Heatshield Sep Fitting/ Balance Mass Covers	0	Ø 127
Upper Ring Balance Mass Covers	0	Ø 101.6
UHF Antennae Windows	\bigcirc	Ø 190
RCS Windows, Roll Thrusters	0	80 x 205
RCS Windows, Pitch/ Yaw (Z)	0	Ø 120
Vent & Propulsion Access Door		450 x 450
RTG Access Door		750 x 750

Entry Vehicle Dimensions

Jet Propulsion Laboratory







Descent Stage Components Placement

Mars Science Laboratory Project

Descent Stage Dimensions

Jet Propulsion Laboratory



Mars Science Laboratory Project



Rover Deployment - Touchdown Configuration

Jet Propulsion Laboratory







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Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Mars Exploration Rover - 2003



The Bigger Better Rover

Mars Science Laboratory Project



Mars Science Laboratory - 2009



Mars Pathfinder Sojourner Rover - 1996

PRE-DECISIONAL DRAFT: For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only

CGS -



Mars Science Laboratory Project Project Mission System Review

Entry, Descent and Landing

Adam Steltzner Flight System Engineering Manager Entry, Descent and Landing





Key Driving EDL Requirements:

- Deliver 775 kg rover lacksquare
 - Eliminates the use of airbag landing system due to interfaces, egress and mass scaling of airbags
- 2.0 km MOLA or greater altitude
 - Results in lifting element of entry design, ballistic entry will not meet performance
- Landing with a maximum error of 10 km from the targeted point lacksquareResults in guided entry to fly-out atmospheric and vehicle uncertainties

Detailed Requirements:

See below

EDL Driving Requirements







Event Timeline 1/2







Event Timeline 2/2



²⁰⁰⁰ m above MOLA areoid



EDL Design Comparison and Trades







	Viking	MPF	MER	Phoenix	MSL
EFPA (deg)	-16.99	-13.8	-11.5	-12.5	-15.2
Entry Velocity, Inertial (km/s)	4.61	7.26	5.5	5.5	5.3-6.0
Landing Sol, (Ls)	97	143	330	90	120 -150
Heatshield Geometry	70 sphere-cone				
Heatshield Diameter (m)	3.5	2.65	2.65	2.65	4.5
Ballistic Coefficient (kg/m^2)	63	62.3	88	71	121
Entry Mass (kg)	930	585	836	608	2804
Control Method	Guided/Lift-up	Ballistic	Ballistic	Guided/Lift-up	Guided
L/D	0.18	0	0	0.06	0.24
Trim angle @ M=24 (deg)	-11	0	0	-4	-15.5
Landing Ellipse Semi-Major Axis (km)	100	75	60	90-125	10
Peak Heating Rate (W/cm ²)	21.02	106	44	58.7	140 - 155 (margined)
Integrated Heat Load (J/cm^2)	1100	3865	3687	3245	~ 6000 (margined)
Heatshield TPS Material	SLA561-V	SLA561-V	SLA561-V	SLA561-V	SLA561-V (TBC)
Heatshield TPS Thickness (in)	0.54	0.75	0.62	0.55	0.9
Parachute Type	D-G-B	D-G-B	D-G-B	D-G-B	D-G-B
Parachute Cd @	0.677	~0.48	~0.48	0.677	0.677
Parachute Diameter (m)	16.15	12.4	14.1	11.5	19.7
Parachute x/D	8.5	9.4	9.8	9.5	9.5
Touchdown Velocity (m/s)	2.4	25	25	2.4	0.75
Descent Propulsion	Throttled N2H4	Solid	Solid	Pulsed N2H4	Throttled N2H4
Landing Site Elevation (km)	-3.5	-1.5	-1.3	-3.5	+2.0
Landed Mass, Dry (kg)	590	360	539	364	1541
Mobile Mass (kg)	0	11	173	0	775
Usable Equipment (kg)	244	92	173	167	775
Payload Inst. and Accmd. (kg)	92	6	9.3	55	140
Usable/Entry Ratio (non-structure and propulsion for landers)	26%	16%	21%	27%	28%

MSL EDL Design Table





EDL Design Topic Areas Guided Entry and TPS Parachute Descent



Mars Science Laboratory

Powered Descent/Sky Crane



Entry: Aerodynamic Deceleration and Control

- Primary decelerator is entry body drag
 - Approximately 99% of approach kinetic energy is dissipated to the atmosphere
- Lifting entry configuration
 - Viking, Phoenix(?)
 - Shuttle, Apollo, Gemini, etc.
- CM offset calculated to provide
 - ~15 degree AOA @ max Q
 - ~19 deg AOA @ parachute deploy
 - Produces a nominal L/D of .24 @ M 24
- Apollo Guidance Algorithm
 - Guidance achieved by "rolling" around velocity vector
 - Apollo, Viking





Entry: Thermal Protection



- - _____ heat load requirements of MSL





Mars Science Laboratory

Heritage SLA 561-V material has demonstrated performance in MSL flight regime Test conducted at NASA Ames have shown SLA and other materials can meet the heat rate and



0.75 inches thick SRAM & SLA



With SIRCA collar Total diameter 4 inches

Parachute Descent



- Secondary decelerator is Parachute drag lacksquare
 - Approximately 95% of remaining Kinetic energy is dissipated to the atmosphere
- Viking configuration parachute lacksquare
 - Larger diameter (19.7 m vs 16.1 m)
 - Modern materials (kevlar vs. polyester)
- Deployment conditions lacksquare
 - Mach number < 2.15 (Viking)
 - Dynamic Pressure < 850 Pa (MER)
 - Deployment AoA @ deploy < 15 deg. (Viking)
- Parachute scaled to closely match Viking test post ulletdeployment flight conditions
 - Area ratios
 - On chute ballistic coefficient
 - Area oscillations matched





Parachute Deployment







Mars Science Laboratory

MSL 05-22 40⁰S, 2 km Synthetic Terrain, +/- 0.5 know quat error



MSL Parachute System Qualification

- Parachute Qualification requires validation of:
 - Deployment
 - Initial Inflation (Will it open?)
 - Inflation Strength (Will its structure survive inflation loads?)
 - Inflated Performance (Drag and Stability)
- MSL will make use of an augmented MER approach to qualification
 - Deployment: **Test**: Ground-based Mortar Firing tests of MSL system
 - Initial Inflation: Heritage argument by similarity to existing Mars flight and Earth high altitude test data (See MSL) Parachute Qualification Review Package)
 - Inflation Strength: **Test**: Subsonic, full-scale windtunnel strength test of MSL system, augmented to include cyclic loading to cover the possibility of area oscillation in supersonic conditions
 - Inflated Performance: **Existing Data**: Viking and MER windtunnel data in conjunction with Viking, MPF, and MER flight data
- Parachute qualification program review results will be discussed later





Powered Descent: Vehicle Configuration







Sky Crane Maneuver Description



One-Body Phase

Duration = $\sim 2 \sec$

Purpose: Damp throttle-down transients

Entry State: h = 19.5 mExit State: h = 18 m

Event on entry: "Shut-down" 4 (of 8) MLE's (to < 1% of total)

Deployment Phase

Duration = ~6 sec Purpose: **Rover/DS** separation

Entry State: h = 18 m Exit State: h = 13.5 m

Events on entry: Stop TDS altimetry Change controller gains Fire rover deployment pyros

Settling Phase

Duration = $\sim 2 \sec$ Purpose: Damp separation transients

Entry State: h = 13.5 mExit State: h = 12 m

Event on entry:



Touchdown Phase Phase *Duration* < 2 sec

Duration = 0-8 sec Purpose: Wait for touchdown

Entry State: h = 12 m Exit State: h = 9 m

Event on entry: Enable touchdown logic

Exit Condition: Rover off-loaded for persistent time

Note: Touchdown K.E. ~ 450 J Traverse K.E. ~ 800 J

Sky Crane System Architecture







Comparison of mass growth and on-chute ballistic coefficient

	Configuration	Rover/Entry Mass (kg)	Capsule/Chute Diameter Ratio (kg)	
-date	MSL MCR 10/03	900/2400	0.28	
Vork-to	MSL M2 7/04	550/1883	0.23	
	MSL Costing 6/05	725/2705	0.28	
	<u>Baseline</u>	755/2675	0.23	
M	ISL w/MER chute	755/2675	0.36	
	Viking	NA/1168	0.22	
	MER	174/845	0.22	

Mass Growth and Configuration





 \square





Uniform Slack Maintenance















Initial Touchdown





Complete Touchdown









Bridle & Umbilical Initial Retraction









Bridle & Umbilical Complete Retraction









Fly Away











Sky Crane: Touchdown



- Touchdown is triggered from the *post-touchdown state* NOT the \bullet touchdown event
 - Design allows 1-2 seconds of persistence
- Slack is managed within bridle system
 - Descent stage can continue downward for 2-3 meters



Differential Slacking





Gemini Rogallo Wing Recovery





Some Applications of Entry Aerodynamics ENAE 791 – Launch and Entry Vehicle Design



X-38 Parasail Landing System





Some Applications of Entry Aerodynamics ENAE 791 – Launch and Entry Vehicle Design



SpaceX Propulsive Landing Tests





Some Applications of Entry Aerodynamics ENAE 791 – Launch and Entry Vehicle Design



Evolvable Mars Campaign Overview to FISO Telecon

June 10, 2015

Douglas Craig Strategic Analysis Manager Advanced Exploration Systems Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate NASA HQ
Largest Indivisible Payload Element and Options for Size of the Lander







A Scenario for a Human Mission to Mars Orbit in the 2030s

Thoughts Toward an Executable Program

Fitting Together Puzzle Pieces & Building Blocks

Future In-Space Operations (FISO) Telecon May 20, 2015

> Hoppy Price* John Baker* Firouz Naderi*

*Jet Propulsion Laboratory California Institute of Technology



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Short-stay Mars Lander Concept Attributes of the Mission

- 23 t useful-landed-mass lander
 - Crew of 2 to the surface, 24-day stay
 - (Could support crew of 4 for 6 days)
- Architecture re-uses the Phobos approach for getting crew to HMO and back to Earth (already tested in 2033)
- The lander requires 2 additional SLS launches relative to Phobos mission, bringing total SLS launches to 6
- Lander sent to Mars with 2-SLS launch scenario and aerocaptures into HMO to await crew arrival
- Lift off from Mars surface is achieved through a two-step ascent to High Mars Orbit (HMO)
 - MAV: Surface to Low Mars Orbit (LMO), then boosted to HMO
 - Minimizes the MAV propellant load to enable 23 t lander

Short-stay Surface Mission Concept 24-Day Surface Stay; Crew of 2; 6 SLS Launches



Descent/Ascent Vehicle (DAV) Can support crew of 2 for 28 days, or crew of 4 for 6 days





EDL Concept for Blunt Body Mars Lander



<u>Note</u>: There are no deployable decelerators or parachutes. We will be examining options to utilize an LDSD-type SIAD to increase performance.

Peak Deceleration: 6.4 g

Hypersonic Aeromaneuvering

> Supersonic Retropropulsion

> > Powered Descent: Const. V Phase

Ground Acquisition

> Touchdown Vrel < 5 m/s

Supersonic Retro-Propulsion (SRP)

- Mars landers to date have used subsonic retro-propulsion
- Analyses have indicated the need for SRP for landing large payloads on Mars
- CFD analysis and wind tunnel tests have been performed, and now SRP data utilizing actual flight data has become available from Space X Falcon 9 stage recovery flights
 - 7 flights have been conducted with a portion of the flight regime being analogous to Mars atmospheric conditions













Vehicles to Enable Crewed Missions to Mars Surface (Short Stay)

Orion

SLS

SEP Tug



Deep Space Habitat

In-Space Chemical Propulsion Stages

Mars Lander

Toward a Permanent Presence

- Follow-on missions would have 1 year surface stays supported by a habitat and other supplies
 - Same descent stage design as crewed lander
 - Would support a landed crew of 4
 - Infrastructure would be built up on Mars to provide power, ISRU, food production, and increasing habitable volume
- The Mars program would evolve a reusable transportation architecture between Earth and Mars with an increased flight rate
- With an in-situ water source on Mars, a permanent presence with an Antarcticatype population could be achieved

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