



Agency Priority Goal Action Plan

Mars 2020

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Overview

Goal Statement

- Seeking signs of life on Mars: Explore a habitable environment, search for potential biosignatures of past life, collect and document a cache of scientifically compelling samples for eventual return to Earth, and contribute to future human exploration of Mars. By August 5, 2020, NASA will launch the Mars 2020 rover. To enable this launch date, NASA will deliver the instrument payload for spacecraft integration by September 30, 2019.

Challenge

- The rover body and other major hardware (such as the cruise stage, aeroshell, and heat shield) will be near-duplicates of the systems of the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) and will take maximum advantage of engineering heritage. However, the new rover will carry more sophisticated, upgraded hardware and new instruments, such as the highly complex Sampling and Caching Subsystem.

Opportunity

- Mars 2020 will build upon many discoveries from the Mars Curiosity rover and the two Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, by taking the next key steps in our understanding of Mars' potential as a habitat for past or present life.
- The Mars 2020 rover will seek signs of past life on Mars, collect and store a set of samples for potential return to Earth in the future, and test new technology to benefit future robotic and human exploration of Mars.
- The mission will deploy new capabilities developed through investments by NASA's Exploration Research & Technology organization, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, and contributions from international partners.

Goal Structure & Strategies

The Mars 2020 mission will advance the scientific priorities detailed in the National Academies' Planetary Science Decadal Survey and support payload elements provided by the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate and Exploration Research & Technology organization that are compatible with Science Mission Directorate priorities.

Activities to support these efforts in FY 2018-19 include the following:

- The Mars 2020 Project and contributing partners will complete the final design and fabrication phase of implementation (Phase C).
- The Project will complete the System Integration Review (SIR) and begin Assembly, Test, and Launch Operations (ATLO).
- The instrument payload will complete development and deliver flight hardware to spacecraft ATLO.
- The Sampling and Caching System will complete development of the flight model and deliver hardware for system integration and testing.

The Mars 2020 mission progress is reported regularly to the Science Mission Directorate Flight Program Review and the Agency Baseline Performance Review. Mission development is also assessed through standard NASA lifecycle reviews by the Mars 2020 Standing Review Board, as well as the Directorate and Agency Program Management Councils.

Mars 2020 Summary of Progress – FY18 Q4

- Proceeding with development work on schedule for launch in July 2020. Implementation efforts are focused on hardware production, assembly, and testing, and flight software development and testing.
- Recovery activities continue in response to the static test fracture of the Mars 2020 composite heat shield. Work has been completed in preparation for the early October design & manufacturing review for the replacement heat shield, and long-lead materials have been ordered to support construction of the new structure as soon as the review is complete. The project remains on track for development and delivery of the new heat shield with schedule margin.
- Continued overall good progress on both development and testing of heritage subsystems and development of new elements (i.e., Sampling and Caching System (SCS) & instruments). Schedule delays in instruments and select flight system elements (notably some components of SCS) have been accommodated within schedule margin.
- The Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals (SHERLOC) and the Planetary Instrument for X-ray Lithochemistry (PIXL) instruments have made significant progress overcoming technical challenges, but remain key watch items as critical tests progress.
- Assembly, Test, & Launch Operations (ATLO) activities are proceeding well on descent and cruise stages and rover. Delivered rover chassis to ATLO and began installation of electrical assemblies into chassis.
- All flight models of “modified heritage” actuators delivered.
- Successfully completed final sounding rocket test launch of the strengthened supersonic parachute, on which Mars 2020 will rely to slow the spacecraft as it enters the Martian atmosphere.

Key Milestones

NASA follows an “alternative form,” or milestone-based, approach to reporting on its goals. Following are key quarterly milestones that NASA tracks in support of this goal:

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Risk/ Outlook	Comments
Complete Mission System Critical Design Review (CDR)	FY 2018 Q1	Green	n/a	• Completed November 14-16, 2017.
Complete Project System Integration Review (SIR)	FY 2018 Q2	Green	n/a	• Completed on February 28, 2018.
Complete Key Decision Point D (KDP-D) and begin Assembly, Test, and Launch Operations (ATLO)	FY 2018 Q3	Green	n/a	• Completed KDP-D May 22, 2018; ATLO has begun.
Deliver instrument payload Engineering Models for system integration and test	FY 2018 Q4	Green	n/a	• Completed in Q3 FY18. All instrument Engineering Models are built and undergoing test.
Deliver Cruise Stage and Descent Stage to ATLO	FY 2019 Q1	Green	n/a	• Completed with delivery of Descent Stage in Q2 FY18 and Cruise Stage in Q3 FY18.
Deliver instrument payload Flight Models to ATLO	FY 2019 Q2	Yellow	➡	• Payload generally on track. SHERLOC and PIXL instruments addressing technical issues; engineering model test results to inform flight model development. SHERLOC Flight Model delivery delayed to April (Q3).
Complete instrument payload integration and test	FY 2019 Q3	Yellow	⬇	• Payload generally on track; later delivery of SHERLOC & PIXL presents risk of delay to Q4.
Deliver Sampling and Caching System to ATLO	FY 2019 Q4	Green	➡	• On track.

Data Accuracy and Reliability

Verification and Validation:

- NASA monitors and tracks its progress towards this goal using various Agency documents and reports, including Directorate Program Management Council (DPMC) materials, monthly reports from the project and contributing partners, and other program-internal documents.

Data Source(s):

- Emails, press releases, and program-internal documents indicating progress toward integration, test, and launch.

Level of Accuracy Required for Intended Use:

- Using the documents and reports referenced above, the Agency is able to accurately report at the end of each quarter on whether or not it has met its planned milestones.

Data Limitations:

- Materials may include export-controlled technical information or industrial partner proprietary information, which could not be released publically.

How the Agency Compensates for Data Limitations:

- NASA has not identified any data limitations that would preclude it from reporting accurate, reliable, and timely performance information.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

NASA:

- Mars Exploration Program and Radioisotope Power System Program (Science Mission Directorate).
- Game Changing Development Program and Technology Demonstration Mission Program (Exploration Research & Technology organization).
- Launch Services Program and Advanced Exploration Systems Division (Human Exploration and Operations Directorate).

Other: Mars 2020 includes international contributions from Spain (INTA), France (CNES), Norway (FFI), and Italy (ASI):

- Spain's space agency, the Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial (INTA), is providing the High Gain Antenna, the Mars Environmental Dynamics Analyzer (MEDA) instrument, and a calibration target for the SuperCam instrument.
- France's space agency, the Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES), is providing the mast unit for the SuperCam instrument.
- Norway's Forsvarets Forskning Institute (FFI) is providing the Radar Imager for Mars' Subsurface Experiment (RIMFAX) instrument.
- The Italian Space Agency (Agenzia Spaziale Italiana, or ASI) is providing a laser retroreflector.

Stakeholder Consultations

NASA provides quarterly updates on progress to the Office of Management and Budget and Office of Science and Technology Policy. NASA also consults regularly with the science community and experts from industry and academia, such as the Planetary Science Advisory Council.