

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
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March 21, 2008

Dear MSL Team Members:

My name is Richard Cook, and I am the Project Manager for NASA's Mars Science Laboratory (MSL). MSL is the flagship mission of the Mars Exploration Program and the largest project underway here at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. It is easily the most complex Mars mission ever undertaken, and will make unprecedented contributions to our understanding of our nearest planetary neighbor. The mission starts with a September 2009 launch followed by a 10 month voyage to Mars.

The excitement really starts upon arrival, however, when the actively maneuvered entry vehicle performs a precise flight through the atmosphere followed by the innovative sky crane maneuver which places the rover gently down on the surface of Mars. The car-sized rover then utilizes a set of sophisticated scientific instruments to study the surface & atmospheric properties of Mars including mineral & organic composition. The rover will explore for at least two years and continue the legacy of the Spirit & Opportunity rovers currently at work on Mars.

MSL has just reached the start of assembly of the flight hardware and software elements. To commemorate this milestone, I am happy to provide you with some posters that you may share with the most valued members of our team. Please accept our thanks for the hard work you do that makes such remarkable achievements possible.

Please encourage all your employees to follow along with the mission development at <http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/> and again thank them all for their contribution to our national space program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Cook".

Richard A. Cook
MSL Project Manager
Mars Exploration Directorate
Jet Propulsion Laboratory