

San Francisco Examiner

FILE DESCRIPTION

The *San Francisco Examiner* is a general circulation newspaper providing local, national, and international news, with comprehensive coverage of the San Francisco Bay area. Local issues include the wine industry, the California environment, Pacific-Rim trade, and the electronics and biotechnology industries. Local companies include Chevron, BankAmerica, Pacific Telesis, Transamerica, Southern Pacific, and Charles Schwab Corp.

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DIALOG FILE DATA

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CONTACT

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SAMPLE RECORD

08809007

/TI

NASA'S COUNTDOWN TO MARS DECADE WEDNESDAY'S SCHEDULED LAUNCH BEGINS MOST INTENSE PROBE OF ANOTHER PLANET SINCE '60S

JN=, JC=, PD=, PY=

San Francisco Examiner (EX) - Monday, November 4, 1996

AU=

By: Key Davidson EXAMINER SCIENCE WRITER

ED=, /SH, SH=, PG=

Edition: SECOND Section: NEWS Page: A2

Word Count: 755

TEXT:

/LP, /TX

The interplanetary version of D-day is about to begin: On Wednesday, Earth launches the first of a decade-long series of advances on the planet Mars.

The Mars Global Surveyor spaceship sits snug atop its Delta rocket on a NASA launch pad in Florida, ready for launch at 9:11 a.m. PST Wednesday.

/TX

The space robot's goal: to orbit Mars and snap thousands of high-resolution photos of the crater-scarred, dust-devil-swept world. Beneath the reddish deserts may thrive the solar system's oldest inhabitants: a multibillion-year-old race of Martian microbes, wriggling in underground "hot tubs" - volcano-heated ground water.

"We're nearing the final countdown," said NASA representative Doug Isbell. "We're still pretty confident we'll launch the 6th."

Between Nov. 16 and Dec. 2, six more Mars probes will be launched by Russia, the United States and the European Space Agency.

That's just the beginning of what one might call the Mars Decade: Between 1998 and 2005, at least nine more U.S. and foreign missions are planned, including one to be launched by Japan in 1998 or 1999.

The 2005 mission, NASA's Mars Surveyor '05, may gather Martian rock samples, and return them to Earth.

Waves of probes are to be launched every 26 months, to take advantage of Earth's periodic "close encounters" with Mars.

All in all, the decade-long Mars assault is the most intense scientific "attack" on another world since the 1960s. Back then, the United States and Russia repeatedly pelted the moon with space probes, including NASA's manned Apollo ships.

After Wednesday's Delta launch, the Mars Global Surveyor should enter Mars orbit in summer 1997.

The Delta rocket is one of history's most reliable launch vehicles. "We've had 102 successes out of 104 launches since 1977," said Rich Murphy, launch site director for Delta rockets, in a phone interview.

The Delta is built by McDonnell-Douglas of Huntington Beach.

The next U.S. flight is the U.S.-launched Mars Pathfinder, scheduled for launch Dec. 2. While the Mars Global Surveyor will simply orbit Mars, the Pathfinder will land there on July 4, 1997, and unleash a six-wheeled, solar-powered robot. The robot can roll around and see what's happenin' on the fourth planet from the sun.

Mars is a world where an unprotected human would quickly fry and die. The atmospheric pressure is less than 1 percent that on Earth's surface, so suffocation would be certain. And intense solar ultraviolet radiation bakes the planet.

(...)

SF=, /CP

CAPTION:

CHART

ASSOCIATED PRESS / NASA

THE SEARCH FOR LIFE ON MARS

/DE

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DESCRIPTORS: ASTRONOMY; PLANETS; SPACE FLIGHTS; MARS GLOBAL SURVEYOR

SEARCH OPTIONS

BASIC INDEX

SEARCH SUFFIX	DISPLAY CODE	FIELD NAME	INDEXING	SELECT EXAMPLES
—	—	All Basic Index Fields	Word	S PLANET(S)PROBE
/CP	CP	Caption ³	Word	S PHOTOS/CP
/DE	DE	Descriptor ¹	Word & Phrase	S SPACE/DE S MARS GLOBAL SURVEYOR/DE
/LP	LP	Lead Paragraph ³	Word	S DELTA(W)ROCKET/LP
/ME	ME	Memo ³	Word	S WIRETAP/ ME
/SH	SH	Section Heading ²	Word	S NEWS/SH
/TI	TI	Headline	Word	S NASA(S)LAUNCH/TI
/TX	TX	Text	Word	S ROCK(W)SAMPLE?/TX

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³ Also searchable using /TX.

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—	AN	DIALOG Accession Number		
AU=	AU	Byline	Word	S AU=(KEAY(1N)DAVIDSON)
DL=	DL	Dateline	Phrase	S DL=WASHINGTON
DY=	DY	Publication Day ¹	Phrase	S DY=MONDAY
ED=	ED	Edition	Phrase	S ED=SECOND
JC=	JC	Newspaper Code ⁴	Phrase	S JC=EX
JN=	JN	Newspaper Name	Phrase	S JN=SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER?
MO=	MO	Publication Month ¹	Phrase	S MO=NOVEMBER
PD=	PD	Publication Date	Phrase	S PD=19961104
PG=	PG	Page Number	Phrase	S PG=A2
PY=	PY	Publication Year	Phrase	S PY=1996
RG=	RG	U.S. Region ⁵	Phrase	S RG=WEST
SF=	SF	Special Feature ^{1,6}	Phrase	S SF=PHOTO
SH=	SH	Section Heading ²	Phrase	S SH=NEWS
—	SO	Source Information ⁷		
ST=	ST	Newspaper State	Phrase	S ST=CA
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RANK	All phrase- and numeric-indexed fields in the Additional Indexes can be ranked.	RANK PY S3
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