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MARSDAILY

China-Russia Mars mission set for takeoff

by Staff Writers
Hong Kong (UPI) Jan 5, 2009

The first joint Chinese-Russian mission to Mars is set to take off in October and reach the red planet in August 2010, an exploration project designer said.



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A Russian Zenit rocket will launch a Chinese Yinghuo-1 satellite and a Russian Phobos-Grunt unmanned lander, Chen Changya, chief designer of the China-Russia [Mars exploration](#) project, told Hong Kong's Wen Wei Po newspaper.

Phobos-Grunt is expected to study Mars from orbit, including its atmosphere and dust storms, plasma and radiation, before landing on Phobos, one of Mars' two small [moons](#).

Yinghuo-1, which means Firefly-1, will explore the Martian environment and carry out research into how surface water on the planet disappeared, Chen said.

A challenge for Yinghuo-1 during the yearlong mission will be seven periods of 8.8 hours in darkness, when the sun will be obscured by the red planet and the satellite will not receive solar energy, Chen said.

During those times, Yinghuo-1 will go into "sleeping" status and restart itself after getting through each shadow.

Researchers are still looking at ways to help the satellite sustain extremely low temperatures, plunging to minus 200 degrees Celsius, or about minus 328 degree Fahrenheit, in the shadows, Chen said.

Meanwhile, China's second unmanned moon probe, Chang'e-2, is likely to be launched this year, a year ahead of schedule, the newspaper said.

Chang'e-2 will collect more detailed images and statistics of the moon's surface, the newspaper said.

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MARSDAILY

ISRO Eyes Lunar Landing In 2012 And Mars Mission In 2013



Bangalore, India (PTI) Dec 29, 2008

Buoyed by the success of Chandrayaan-I, Indian space scientists now plan to conquer new frontiers by sending a robot on moon in 2012 and a spacecraft to Mars the following year which will also see an Indian astronaut in space.



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