Mars Design Reference Mission Evolution and Purpose

- Exploration mission planners maintain “Reference Mission” or “Reference Architecture”
- Represents current “best” strategy for human missions
- The Mars DRA is not a formal plan, but provides a vision and context to tie current systems and technology developments to potential future missions
- Also serves as benchmark against which alternative architectures can be measured
- Constantly updated as we learn
2007 Study Objectives / Products

- Update NASA’s human Mars mission reference architecture, that defines:
  - Long term goals and objectives for human exploration missions
  - Flight and surface systems for human missions and supporting infrastructure
    - Current Constellation systems and other systems updated since Mars DRM 4.0 (circa 1998)
    - Update and incorporate Mars surface reference mission into current strategy
  - An operational concept for human and robotic exploration of Mars
  - Key challenges including risk and cost drivers
  - Development schedule options (deferred)

- Assess strategic linkages between lunar and Mars strategies

- Develop an understanding of methods for reducing the cost/risk of human Mars missions through investment in research, technology development and synergy with other exploration plans, including:
  - Robotic Mars missions, Cis-lunar activities, ISS activities, Earth-based activity, including analog sites, laboratory studies, and computer simulations, additional research and technology development investment

- Develop a forward plan to resolve issues not resolved during 2007
Mars Design Reference Architecture 5.0

Study Approach

- Non-Science Requirements
- Systems Development
- Human Exploration Architecture

ESMD

- Science Requirements
- Integration with ongoing Mars Exploration Program
- Interpretation of science results

SMD

- Science Community
  (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group)

ARMD

- Aeronautics research
- Mars atmospheric entry

SOMD

- Human Spaceflight Operations
- Tracking, navigation and communications

• Integrating all stakeholders while leveraging recognized subject matter experts
• Mission Directorates will assign and provide funding for personnel within their respective directorates
Joint Steering Group
- Agency Guidance and Decision Concurrence
  - Exploration Systems Mission Directorate
  - Science Mission Directorate
  - Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate
  - Space Operations Mission Directorate

Mars Strategy Team
- Develop and maintain overall study plan
- Identify resources to support Study Teams
- Concur on recommendations developed by the System Integration Team
- Present findings and recommendations to Joint Steering Group for review/approval

System Integration Team
- System integration support
- Technical interface between study elements and Mars Strategy Team
- Risk assessments and integration
- Cost assessments and integration
- Technical integration of study element products and issue resolution
- Publication of study products
- Public Engagement

Assessment Team
- Independent review of data packages for consistency, completeness, and clarity.

Study Elements
- A specific set of areas that define various pieces of the Mars Architecture
  - Flight & Surface Systems Architecture
  - Goals & Objectives
  - Precursors
  - Crew Health & Performance
  - Entry Descent & Landing Technology

Study Organizational Structure
Trade Tree Trimming
Objectives

- Reduce the number of trade options
- Utilize step-wise decision approach similar to that used by the Exploration Systems Architecture Study (ESAS)
- Concentrate on those key trade tree branches which provide the most architectural leverage. Equal emphasis on cost, risk, and performance
- Ensure proper fidelity is matched with decision confidence. That is, concentrate on those items which "make a difference".
- Continue to refine the approach as decisions are made and increased fidelity is achieved
Mars Design Reference Architecture 5.0 Refinement Process

- **Phase I: Top-down, High-level – Mission Design Emphasis**
  - Focus on key architectural drivers and key decisions
  - Utilization of previous and current element designs, ops concepts, mission flow diagrams, and ESAS risk maturity approach information where applicable
  - Narrow architectural options (trimming the trade tree) based on risk, cost and performance
  - First order assessments to focus trade space on most promising options for Phase II

- **Phase II: Strategic With Emphasis on the Surface Strategy**
  - Refinement of leading architectural approach based on trimmed trade tree
  - Elimination of options which are proven to be too risky, costly, or do not meet performance goals
  - Special studies to focus on key aspects of leading options to improve fundamental approach

- Propose basic architecture decisions
1. Mission Type:
   Which mission type, conjunction class (long surface stay) or opposition class (short surface stay) provides the best balance of cost, risk, and performance?

2. Pre-Deployment of Mission Cargo:
   Should mission assets, which are not used by the crew until arrival at Mars, be pre-deployed ahead of the crew?

3. Mars Orbit Capture Method
   Should the atmosphere of Mars be used to capture mission assets into orbit (aerocapture)?

4. Use of In-Situ Resources for Mars Ascent
   Should locally produced propellants be used for Mars ascent?

5. Mars Surface Power Strategy
   Which surface power strategy provides the best balance of cost, risk, and performance?
How to Capitalize on the Unique Attributes of Human Explorers

- Human explorers bring unique abilities to exploration:

  - **Cognition**
    - Rapidly recognize and respond to unexpected findings; sophisticated, rapid pattern recognition (structural/morphological biosignatures).

  - **Dexterity**
    - Humans are capable of lifting rocks, hammering outcrops, selecting samples, etc..

  - **Adaptability**
    - Humans are able to react in real time to new and unexpected situations, problems, hazards and risks.

  - **Efficiency**
    - Sample and equipment manipulation and problem solving.
Possible Objectives
Program of First Three Human Missions

- Goals for initial human exploration of Mars organized into the following taxonomy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal I</th>
<th>Potential for Life (MEPAG – Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal II</td>
<td>Current and ancient climate (MEPAG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal III</td>
<td>Geology &amp; geophysics (MEPAG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal IV</td>
<td>Preparation for human exploration (MEPAG – update pending)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal IV+</td>
<td>Preparation for sustained human presence (ESMD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal V</td>
<td>Ancillary science (SMD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Relationship between the resulting goals and proposed implementation approaches addressed:
  - Different exploration sites or same site?
  - Short stay (30-day) or long stay (500-days)

- Recommendation:
  - Long-stay missions overwhelmingly preferred
  - Multiple sites preferred from a science perspective
  - Same site probably better for sustained presence
  - Maximize mobility, on-Mars field (and field lab) science capability, and options for returned sample science
Mars Design Reference Architecture 5.0
Forward Deployment Strategy

- Twenty-six months prior to crew departure from Earth, pre-deploy:
  - Mars surface habitat lander to Mars orbit
  - Mars ascent vehicle and exploration gear to Martian surface
  - Deployment of initial surface exploration assets
  - Production of ascent propellant (oxygen) prior to crew departure from Earth

- Six crew travel to Mars on “fast” (six month) trajectory
  - Reduces risks associated with zero-g, radiation
  - Rendezvous with surface habitat lander in Mars orbit
  - Crew lands in surface habitat which becomes part of Mars infrastructure
  - Sufficient habitation and exploration resources for 18 month stay
Mars Design Reference Architecture 5.0 Mission Profile
NTR Reference Shown

- **Crew:** ~180 days back to Earth
- **Crew:** Jettison drop tank after trans-Mars injection ~180 days out to Mars
- **Cargo:** ~350 days to Mars
- **Ares-I Crew Launch**
- **Ares-V Cargo Launches:** 3 launches, ~26 months
- **Cargo Vehicles**
- **In-Situ propellant production for Ascent Vehicle**
- **Aerocapture / Entry, Descent & Land Ascent Vehicle**
- **Aerocapture Habitat Lander into Mars Orbit**
- **Crew:** Use Orion to transfer to Habitat Lander; then EDL on Mars
- **Crew:** Ascent to high Mars orbit
- **Crew:** Prepare for Trans-Earth Injection
- **Crew:** ~180 days back to Earth
- **Orion direct Earth return**
Long-surface Stay + Forward Deployment

- Mars mission elements pre-deployed to Mars prior to crew departure from Earth
  - Surface habitat and surface exploration gear
  - Mars ascent vehicle

- Conjunction class missions (long-stay) with fast inter-planetary transits

- Successive missions provide functional overlap of mission assets
Human Exploration
A Historical Perspective

Human mission to Mars will be long and complex, but the round trip duration is within the experience of some of the most successful exploration missions with significantly far fewer crew.
Ares V Elements
- Recommended POD (51.0.48) -

**Shroud** (Dual use shroud shown)
- 10 m (dia) x 30 m (length)
- Dual use shroud used as entry system at Mars
- Standard or nosecone only versions for other Mars payload elements

**Mars Payload Solid Rocket Boosters (2)**
- Two recoverable 5.5-segment PBAN-fueled, steel-casing boosters (derived from current Ares I first stage RS–68B Engines (6))

**Earth Departure Stage (EDS)**
- Loiter skirt eliminated (no loiter required for Ares V)
- ~40% Propellant offloaded

**Core Stage**
- Six Delta IV-derived RS–68 LOX/LH$_2$ engines (expendable)
- 10 m (33 ft) diameter stage
- Composite structures
- Aluminum-Lithium (Al-Li) tanks

**Performance to LEO**
- Jettison shroud Option:
  - Payload: 130.8 t
- Dual Use shroud:
  - Payload: 83.6 t
  - Shroud: 50.0 t

**Solid Rocket Boosters (2)**
- Two recoverable 5.5-segment PBAN-fueled, steel-casing boosters (derived from current Ares I first stage)
Cargo Vehicle
Descent / Ascent Vehicle (DAV)

NTR Vehicle
- Common “core” propulsion stage with 3 - 25 klbf NTR engines (Isp ~900 s)
- Total Mass: 238.1 t

Descent / Ascent Vehicle
- Pre-deployed to the surface of Mars
- Utilizes locally produced propellants (oxygen) from Mars atmosphere, methane transported from Earth
- Transports 6 crew from the surface of Mars to high-Mars orbit
- Ares V shroud used as Mars entry aeroshell
- Descent stage capable of landing ~40 t
- Advanced technologies assumed (composites, O2/CH4 propulsion, etc
- Lander Mass: 63.7 t
- Lander + Aeroshell: 106.6 t

LEO Operations
- NTR stage & payload elements are delivered to LEO and assembled via autonomous rendezvous & docking
Cargo Vehicle
Surface Habitat (SHAB)

**NTR Vehicle**
- Common “core” propulsion stage with 3 - 25 klbf NTR engines (Isp ~900 s)
- Total Mass: 238.1 t

**Surface Habitat**
- Pre-deployed to Mars orbit
- Transports 6 crew from Mars orbit to surface
- Supports the crew for up to 550 days on the surface of Mars
- Ares V shroud used as Mars entry aeroshell
- Descent stage capable of landing ~40 t
- Advanced technologies assumed (composites, O2/CH4 propulsion, closed life support, etc)
- Lander Mass: 64.2 t
- Lander + Aeroshell: 107.0 t

**LEO Operations**
- NTR stage & payload elements are delivered to LEO and assembled via autonomous rendezvous & docking
Crew Vehicle
Mars Transit Vehicle (MTV)

NTR Vehicle

- Common “core” propulsion stage with 3 - 25 klbf NTR engines (Isp ~900 s)
- Core stage propellant loading augmented with “in-line” LH2 tank for TMI maneuver
- Total Mass: 283.4 t

Transit Habitat & Orion Entry Vehicle

- Transports 6 crew round trip from LEO to high-Mars orbit and return
- Supports 6 crew for 400 days (plus 550 contingency days in Mars orbit)
- Crew direct entry in Orion at 12 km/s
- Advanced technologies assumed (composites, inflatables, closed life support, etc)
- Transit Habitat Mass: 41.3 t
- Orion: 10.0 t

LEO Operations

- NTR stage & payload elements are delivered to LEO and assembled via autonomous rendezvous & docking
Orion Crew Transfer / Earth Return Vehicle

- **Crew Delivery to LEO (Block 1)**
  - Provide safe delivery of 6 crew to Earth orbit (for rendezvous with the MTV)
    - Delivery and return of checkout crew prior to the mission
    - Delivery of the mission crew
    - ISS Block1 configuration

- **End of Mission Crew Return (Mars Block)**
  - Provide safe return of 6 crew from the Mars-Earth transfer trajectory to Earth at the end of the mission
    - 12 km/s entry speed
    - 900 day dormant operations
    - 3 day active operations
    - Much smaller service module (~300 m/s delta-v) for re-targeting and Earth entry corridor set-up
Multiple strategies developed stressing differing mixes of duration in the field, exploration range, and depth of sampling

- Mobile Home: Emphasis on large pressurized rovers to maximize mobility range
- Commuter: Balance of habitation and small pressurized rover for mobility and science
- Telecommuter: Emphasis on robotic exploration enabled by teleoperation from a local habitat

Mobility including exploration at great distances from landing site, as well as sub-surface access, are key to Science Community

In-Situ Consumable Production of life support and EVA consumables coupled with nuclear surface power provides greatest exploration leverage

Development of systems which have high reliability with minimal human interaction is key to mission success
Maintaining a launch frequency greater than 30 days eliminates the need for a new Ares V Pad.

Mars launch campaign requires a new Offline SRB Stacking Facility*, two additional Ares V Mobile Launchers and one additional Ares V Integration Cell in the VAB**.

Providing adequate launch schedule margin (additional 3-6 months prior to TMI window opening) is key to maximizing mission success.

For processing the Common Core Stage, Surface Nuclear Power will likely require a new Processing Facility.

Chemical option assumes a limited Ground Processing concept similar to current CLV Upper stage and Ares V EDS.

NTR likely will require a new Processing Facility.

New Ground System assets above what is currently planned for Lunar Missions.

Launchers were also studied.

A new VAB like Ares Vertical Integration Facility and adding additional Ares V Mobile Launchers and one additional Ares V Integration Cell were also studied.

Mars Launch Campaign requires a new Offline SRB Stacking Facility, two additional Ares V Mobile Launchers and one additional Ares V Integration Cell.

Eliminates the need for a new Ares V Pad.
Aerocapture of uncrewed cargo vehicles continues to remain the leading option since they already have aeroshells

Recommend retaining propulsive capture of crew elements (technical mass and packaging issues)

First use of EDL identified as a key risk driver (scalable/near-full scale precursor will help retire risk)

Landing of large payloads (greater than 2 t) on the surface of Mars remains a key challenge (supersonic transition problem)

Research and system studies of fundamental EDL is highly recommended

Thorough EDL risk mitigation strategy, including robotic mission demonstration and use of EDL systems which are scalable/near-full scale to human mission needs is highly recommended

Aborts during EDL flight phase highly unlikely. Further assessments required, but continue to stress Abort to Surface strategies.

Limiting Earth return to less than 12 km/s will keep TPS near “within Orion Family”.
• ISRU commodities produced prior to crew departure from Earth

• Commodity handling is a subset of proven lunar ISRU techniques

• Propellants (oxygen) used for ascent from surface to High-Mars Orbit produced from Mars atmosphere
  • 30% reduction in lander mass
  • Reduction in volume thus easing packaging of lander in the aeroshell

• Producing caches of water and oxygen provides backup to life support systems
  • Can reduce level of closure (and expense) of surface life support systems

• Technical risk can be mitigated by lunar and robotic mission tests of Martian resource extraction
  • Could also make sense as a sample return strategy
Design Reference Architecture 5.0
Surface Power System

- 30 kWe fission power system supports ISRU (prior to crew arrival) and during crew exploration
- Reactor deployed 1 km from lander remotely
- Close derivative of the lunar system
Long surface stays with visits to multiple sites provides scientific diversity thus maximizing science return

Sustainability objectives favor return missions to a single site (objectives lend themselves best to repeated visits to a specific site on Mars)

Mobility at great distances (100’s km) from the landing site enhances science return (diversity)

Subsurface access of 100’s m or more highly desired

Advanced laboratory and sample assessment capabilities necessary for high-grading samples for return
Landing site in a “safe” but relatively uninteresting location

Geologic diversity obtained via exploration range

Example case studies developed to understand exploration capability needs

RED line indicates a set of example science traverses
NASA Planetary Protection Policy is consistent with the COSPAR policy and is documented in NASA Policy Directive NPD 8020.7

- Specific requirements for human missions have not yet been issued.

"Special regions" are areas that can be identified as being especially vulnerable to biological contamination and requiring special protections

“A region within which terrestrial organisms are likely to propagate, OR A region that is interpreted to have a high potential for the existence of extant Martian life forms.“ COSPAR 2002

"Zones of Minimum Biological Risk" (ZMBRs) are regions that have been demonstrated to be safe for humans.

- Astronauts will only be allowed in areas that have been demonstrated to be safe.

Exploration plans and systems must be designed to maximize exploration efficiency while maintaining effective planetary protection controls

- Sterilization of hardware
- Minimized contamination release from human systems into the environment
- Human/robotic partnerships
- Human health monitoring

Safeguarding the Earth, and by extension astronauts, from harmful backward contamination must always be the highest planetary protection priority
Mars Design Reference Architecture 5.0
Evolutionary Testing Strategy

知识 / 经验 / 自信心

地球/ISS 月球 火星通过机器人技术

- 批判性长期持续性能数据，硬件和操作概念
- 重力敏感现象（宇航员生理学，气/液分离，大型结构部署等）的验证
- 长期系统测试，包括人类与硬件、软件和操作程序的交互，如最低级组件维修
- 操作概念的模拟，如车辆部署和组装，承诺最终车辆设计和操作任务概念
- 在近地空间中，长期暴露系统于深空环境，包括辐射和零重力
- 用于增强月球能力而改善未来火星系统信心的火星原型系统（居住、电力、ISRU、移动等）的演示和使用
- 共通性及最低级维护和维修概念和技术
- 表面探索场景和技术
- 长期暴露系统于深空环境，包括辐射和尘埃
- 长期“模拟”预演和“如果”情境的未来人类火星任务
- 收集火星环境数据（尘埃组成、热辐射、地形、危害等）
- 整合航天推进技术系统性能的演示
- 先进技术演示适用于未来人类任务（例如 IVHM、ISRU、电力、热管理等）
- 尘埃抑制技术
- 大规模机器人任务可以示范核能组件和系统的操作特性，着陆动态和物理（撞击），以及部署未来的火星任务资产
- 大规模无人运货任务可以验证人类着陆器
Mars Design Reference Architecture 5.0
Key Driving Requirements (KDR) & Challenges

- **Ground Ops**
  - 7+ launches per mission
  - 30 day launch centers (300 day launch campaign)
  - Processing of nuclear systems
  - Ares-V launch vehicle configuration
  - Production and storage of cryogenics and helium

- **Ares-V**
  - 10-m dia x 30 m total length launch shroud
  - Dual use shroud (EDL)
  - 125+ t to LEO
  - Launch to higher inclinations
  - EDS evolution to long-duration (option)

- **Cross-cutting**
  - Automated Rendezvous & Docking (in Earth orbit)
  - Cryogenic fluid management ($H_2$, $O_2$, $CH_4$)
  - Commonality & lowest level maintenance & repair
  - Long-term system operation (300-1200 days)
  - Low-Earth Orbit loiter for 300+ days
  - Planetary protection
  - Dust mitigation

- **Mobility and Exploration**
  - 100+ km roving range
  - 10+ m depth access
  - Light-weight, dexterous, maintainable EVA
  - In-situ laboratory analysis capabilities

- **Human Health & Support**
  - Support humans in space for 900 days
  - Radiation protection & forecasting
  - Zero-g countermeasures
  - Closed-loop life support (air & water)

- **In-Space Transportation**
  - ~50 t roundtrip (LEO to Mars orbit return)
  - 110 – 125 t to Trans-Mars Injection
  - Assembly via docking only
  - ISRU compatible lander propulsion (oxygen)
  - Integrated transportation flight experience
  - Advanced Inter-planetary Propulsion

- **Aeroassist**
  - 40-50 t payload to the surface
  - Aerocapture + EDL for cargo
  - Abort-to-Mars surface
  - 12 km/s Earth return speed

- **Surface Related**
  - Auto-deployment and checkout of systems 30+ kWe continuous power
  - Reliable back-up power system

- **ISRU**
  - Extraction, storage and use of consumables from the martian atmosphere
  - Production of 24 t of oxygen for ascent
  - Production of life support oxygen (2 t) and water (3.5 t)
Human Exploration of Mars
Key Decisions and Tenets

- Long surface stays with visits to multiple sites provides scientific diversity thus maximizing science return
- Mars systems pre-deployed to reduce mission mass and conduct system checkout prior to crew departure from Earth
- Enabling characteristics of human exploration of Mars:
  - Entry, Descent, and Landing of large payloads (40 t) – Dual use Ares V shroud
  - Robust Ares V launch campaign: 7+ launches on 30-day centers
  - Nuclear Thermal Rocket (NTR) propulsion preferred transportation option (retain chemical/aerobrake as backup)
  - ISRU: Production of ascent propellant (oxygen) and crew consumables from the atmosphere
  - Nuclear surface power: Enables In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) while providing continuous robust power
  - Mobility at great distances (100’s km) from the landing site enhances science return (diversity)
  - A rich “Mars like” lunar Program which demonstrates key system behavior, operability, repair, and time on systems is necessary
  - Operation and maintenance of systems for long durations (500-1200 days) with no logistics resupply