



Chinese astronaut to 'land on Mars'

Source: Global Times

[08:31 February 16 2011]

Comments

A Chinese volunteer, participating in a mock voyage to Mars, is about to simulate his first steps on the red planet's surface Friday.

Wang Yue, 27, was preparing in his landing capsule for the extravehicular activity, Bai Yanqiang, vice director of the China Astronaut Research and Training Center (CARTC), said Tuesday.

Wang, an instructor at the CARTC, was selected last year as one of the six crewmembers for the Mars-500 international experiment in Moscow, which aims to test the human physical and psychological strains of a 500-day journey to Mars.

According to the CARTC, during the simulation, Wang Yue will be outfitted in a Russian-made space suit and navigate a Mars exploration rover to collect rock samples.

The setting of the Mars-500 simulated landing is a meteor crater where the US' Spirit Mars exploration rover actually landed in 2004.

Xinhua