

# The Voice of Russia

## "Marsonauts" spacewalk Red Planet

Tags: Russia, News, Sci-Tech, World, Mars 500 experiment

Feb 22, 2011 16:29 Moscow Time



500-day Mars flight simulation experiment. Photo: EPA



Two of the so-called Marsonauts taking part in a 500-day Mars flight simulation experiment in Moscow have returned to their landing craft after spacewalking the conventional Martian surface for less than an hour to collect rock samples.

Alexander Smolejevsky of Russia and Diego Urbina of Italy rehearsed an emergency situation.

Urbina stumbled over and dropped the bag with the samples.

On February 27, the crew will set out on the return journey.

Launched last June at the Moscow Institute of Medico-Biological Problems, the Mars 500 experiment will provide data needed to prepare a real-life interplanetary flight.