



Mars500 astronauts lands on Red Planet

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Two members of the six-man crew a simulated Mars mission, dubbed Mars500, set their feet on Mars on Monday. They walked around for more than hour and performed different [experiments](#) on the surface of the [Red Planet](#).

Actually, the crew members performed experiments in a darkened, sand-filled room designed to simulate Mars in a massive [hanger](#) in Moscow. The landscape is reddish sand to resemble the Gusev crater on Mars.

The objective behind the simulated Mars mission is to test the mental as well as physical strains of long-duration interplanetary travel. The project will assist in preparing future astronauts for a real trip to Mars in future.

Speaking on the mission, former ESA astronaut Fuglesang said, "When you land on Earth, there are people taking care of you. There will be nobody on Mars to help them."

The duration of the Mars500 project, which simulates almost all aspects of the journey to Mars, is 520 days. The mission includes a 250-day simulated trip to the Red Planet, a 30-day stay on the planet and a 240-day [return flight](#) to Earth.

The simulation project is being run by the European Space Agency, Russia and China at a cost of \$15 million.