

News

Mars500: two months away from 'arrival at Earth'



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The 'mission' to Mars is now generating unique data – nobody has been isolated as long as these six marsonauts. Soon, the communications delay will end and the crew will feel that much closer to opening the hatch on 4 November.

The first full simulation of a mission to Mars and back is proceeding smoothly in the special facility at the Institute of Biomedical Problems in Moscow.

In mid-August the experiment passed the milestone of 438 days that was previously the longest time ever spent apart from the natural world, by cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov aboard Russia's Mir space station in 1994–95.

Logistics, psychology, health, experiments – now everything is in uncharted territory and providing valuable information for that moment when humans eventually venture out to the planets.

Long two months

At the moment the crew is faced with the most demanding and difficult period of the mission, with strong elements of monotony, sensory deprivation and general weakness.

Apart from being pale, the six men are coping with the situation remarkably well. They are always looking for new ways of staying motivated and relaxed.

They are occupied not only with a multitude of scientific experiments and maintaining their 'spacecraft', but also keep busy with creative activities.

European participants Diego Urbina and Romain Charles are writing diaries, taking photos and making videos, although less often than at the beginning of their mission.

Diego's deep involvement with Twitter ([@diegou](https://twitter.com/@diegou)) is giving the general public an insider's view of daily life in the Mars500 modules.

The first real step towards 'arrival back at Earth' will take place on 15 September, when direct communication with the crew will be re-established.



Diego and Romain with [red goggles](#)



ESA Director General talking with Mars500

- Video #14 - 1.9.2011 (http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Mars500/SEMU3SUTTRG_0.html)

Online video

- ESA TV: One year inside (<http://multimedia.esa.int/Videos/2011/05/Mars-500-one-year-inside>)
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