MARS SURVEYOR: NASA'S PROGRAM OF MARS EXPLORATION (1996 - 2005)

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Mars Surveyor is a program of Mars Exploration spanning a decade, employing investigations conducted from Mars orbit and on its surface. Surveyor is a scientific and technicall y aggressive program but it is tightly cosl-constrained. Total annual costs arc capped at lcss than $150M. The first mission in the pi ogram is the. Mars Global Surveyor (MGS), an orbiter to be launched in 1996 which recovers much of the science lost with the failure of Mars Observer, In this same launch opportunity NASA will send the Mars Pathfinder, a mission in the Discovery program series, to the surface of Mars.

NASA's decision to "proceed with an intensive exploration of Mars was made. in 1994. NASA has committed, beginning in 1996, to two launches to Mars at each launch opportunity. Current plans include an orbiter and lander in 1998 and two landers in 2001. Also within the Mars Surveyor program is a study of a potential joint ESA/NASA mission to Mars in 2003, called InterMarsNet, which would include four landers. A number of mission options are being considered for the 2005 opportunity, including a low cost sample return mission.

The scientific objectives and measurement techniques compi ising each mission within the Mars Surveyor program will be determined through the Announcement of Opportunit y process. Proposals will be solicited from the international science community for complete mission payloads using integrated instument packages, as well as for individual, stand alone sensors. US industry has been asked to submit proposals for the landers and orbiters for the program,

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3. Dr. Daniel J. McCleese/Prof. Dr. Heinrich Wänke

4. Standard equipment

5. Oral presentation