



NASA Reveals Plan to Propel Gateway to Mars Using Nukes

Description

A new spacecraft called SR-1 will use nuclear power in space. It will use a special type of engine called a plasma thruster. The thrusters will not use solar power but will get energy from a nuclear reactor.

The leader of the project, Isaacman, said they want to improve space travel. They do not want to ask for lots of money again after spending \$20 billion on past projects that did not work. They will use parts they already have and a reactor that is mostly built.

NASA did not say how much the SR-1 mission will cost. If they show that nuclear power works, they may ask for more funds in the future.

The SR-1 mission is planned to launch with the next Mars mission in December 2028. They have a strict schedule for this, but there are challenges. They need to finish designing by June and start building in early 2028. If they miss this launch, they must wait until 2031 for another chance.

NASA will lead the mission, but it needs help from other agencies to launch radioactive fuel into space safely.

Vocabulary List:

1. **spacecraft** //ˈspeɪs,kɹæft// (noun): a vehicle that travels in space
2. **nuclear** //ˈnu:kliə// (adjective): relating to energy from splitting atoms
3. **plasma** //ˈplæzmə// (adjective): made from very hot charged gas
4. **thrusters** //ˈθɹʌstəz// (noun): engines that push a spacecraft forward
5. **reactor** //riˈæktə// (noun): a machine that makes energy from atoms
6. **schedule** //ˈskɛdʒʊl// (noun): a plan that shows when tasks happen

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What type of engine will the SR-1 spacecraft use?

Option: Solar thruster

Option: Plasma thruster



Option: Rocket engine
Option: Chemical thruster

2. How much money has been spent on past projects before the SR-1?

Option: \$10 billion
Option: \$15 billion
Option: \$20 billion
Option: \$25 billion

3. When is the planned launch date of the SR-1 mission?

Option: December 2028
Option: January 2029
Option: June 2028
Option: March 2028

4. What does NASA need from other agencies to launch the SR-1?

Option: Financial support
Option: Technical expertise
Option: Radioactive fuel
Option: Spacecraft components

5. What is the primary goal of the SR-1 mission?

Option: To improve space travel
Option: To collect samples from Mars
Option: To test solar power
Option: To build a space station

6. What must be completed by June for the SR-1 mission?

Option: Building the spacecraft
Option: Designing the spacecraft
Option: Testing the engine
Option: Training the crew

True-False

7. The SR-1 spacecraft will use solar power.

8. The project leader is named Isaacman.



9. NASA has already announced the cost of the SR-1 mission.
10. The SR-1 mission must wait until 2031 for the next launch opportunity if the December 2028 launch is missed.
11. The SR-1 will not use parts already available from previous projects.
12. The SR-1 mission includes collaboration with other agencies.

Gap-Fill

13. The SR-1 will use a special type of engine called a _____ .
14. Isaacman stated they want to improve _____ travel.
15. NASA did not disclose how much the SR-1 _____ will cost.
16. If the current plans are missed, the next launch will be in _____ 2031.
17. They plan to launch the SR-1 mission with the next _____ mission.
18. To safely launch radioactive fuel into space, NASA needs help from other _____ .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Plasma thruster 2. \$20 billion 3. December 2028 4. Radioactive fuel 5. To improve space travel 6. Designing the spacecraft

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. plasma thruster 14. space 15. mission 16. March 17. Mars 18. agencies

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What type of vessel is designed to operate underwater?

Option: Aircraft

Option: Submarine

Option: Battleship



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- Option: Hovercraft
2. What type of reactor uses nuclear reactions to generate energy?
- Option: Solar
 - Option: Geothermal
 - Option: Nuclear
 - Option: Hydroelectric
3. What state of matter is found in certain types of thrusters for spacecraft?
- Option: Solid
 - Option: Liquid
 - Option: Gas
 - Option: Plasma
4. What is often used to improve the performance of a product based on user responses?
- Option: Research
 - Option: Feedback
 - Option: Advertising
 - Option: Testing
5. Which cosmetic procedure is commonly used to remove unwanted fat?
- Option: Tummy tuck
 - Option: Liposuction
 - Option: Facelift
 - Option: Botox
6. What can you do to personalize your gameplay experience?
- Option: Customize
 - Option: Standardize
 - Option: Regulate
 - Option: Limit
7. Which routine is important for maintaining healthy skin?
- Option: Budgeting
 - Option: Skincare
 - Option: Exercise
 - Option: Reading
8. What type of effects enhance the imagery of a film or video game?



- Option: Auditory
- Option: Visual
- Option: Tactile
- Option: Olfactory

9. What stage follows the planning phase in a project lifecycle?

- Option: Execution
- Option: Testing
- Option: Deployment
- Option: Development

10. What do people often seek to reduce through cosmetic procedures?

- Option: Scars
- Option: Blemishes
- Option: Wrinkles
- Option: Freckles

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The _____ features of the game were its stunning graphics and captivating story.

12. The research had a significant _____ on public policy regarding environmental issues.

13. Many people have _____ about their choices as they age.

14. It is _____ to follow the instructions carefully during the experiment.

15. The scientists _____ the ocean floor to find new underwater features.

16. The _____ improvement of technology leads to innovative solutions.

17. We welcome _____ from the community to help us improve our services.

18. The project _____ includes several important deadlines and milestones.

19. The _____ arm was used to assist patients in rehabilitation exercises.

20. The spacecraft was equipped with advanced _____ for better maneuverability.



Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The spacecraft successfully returned from its mission with valuable data.
22. Injectables are often used in cosmetic procedures to enhance facial features.
23. The performance of the new game was praised by both critics and players alike.
24. The special effects in the movie created an immersive experience for the audience.
25. The magician's illusion made the rabbit appear to have disappeared into thin air.
26. Robotic technologies are transforming industries by increasing efficiency and safety.
27. The development of new software is crucial for staying competitive in the market.
28. The submarine was designed to withstand extreme underwater pressures.
29. Nuclear energy is a powerful source of electricity used in many countries.
30. A consistent skincare routine is essential for maintaining healthy skin.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Submarine 2. Nuclear 3. Plasma 4. Feedback 5. Liposuction 6. Customize 7. Skincare 8. Visual 9. Development 10. Wrinkles

Gap-Fill: 11. prominent 12. impact 13. regrets 14. crucial 15. mapped 16. continuous 17. suggestions 18. schedule 19. robotic 20. thrusters

Matching sentence: 1. spacecraft 2. injectables 3. performance 4. effects 5. disappeared 6. robotic 7. development 8. submarine 9. nuclear 10. skincare

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL1

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1. AI
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7. NASA
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