NASA Unveils Nuclear-Powered Mars Mission with Skyfall Helicopters

Description

NASA plans to launch a nuclear-powered mission to Mars by 2028. This mission is important because it could change how humans explore space. Until now, Mars missions mostly used chemical and solar power, which have limits in speed and efficiency. Nuclear power can help spacecraft travel faster and carry more equipment.

The upcoming mission will use a spacecraft with Nuclear Electric Propulsion (NEP). This system uses a small nuclear reactor to create electricity. The electricity will power the spacecraft, allowing it to travel long distances without much fuel. The spacecraft may also launch helicopters, which can explore areas on Mars that robots cannot reach. NASA hopes this mission will help future trips to Mars.

Nuclear propulsion is different from traditional rockets. It provides a steady and efficient source of power. This technology can be two to five times more efficient than chemical systems. It does not depend on sunlight and is better for deep space missions.

Reducing the travel time to Mars is a major goal. Currently, it takes six to nine months to get there. A faster journey can lower health and financial risks for astronauts. NASA is already testing the nuclear engine to prove its effectiveness before the mission. If successful, this mission could mark the start of a new era in space exploration.

Vocabulary List:

1. **propulsion** //prəˈpʌlʃən// (noun): force that moves a vehicle forward
2. **reactor** //riˈæktɚ// (noun): machine that makes heat or power
3. **efficiency** //ɪˈfɪʃənsi// (noun): how well something uses energy or time
4. **spacecraft** //ˈspeɪskræft// (noun): vehicle made to travel in space
5. **electricity** //ɪˌlɛkˈtrɪsəti// (noun): power used to run machines and lights
6. **nuclear** //ˈnuːkliɚ// (adjective): relating to energy produced by atoms

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What type of mission does NASA plan to launch by 2028?

Option: Chemical-powered mission
Option: Solar-powered mission
Option: Nuclear-powered mission
Option: Hybrid-powered mission

2. What propulsion system will the upcoming mission use?

Option: Electric Propulsion
Option: Chemical Propulsion
Option: Nuclear Electric Propulsion
Option: Solar Electric Propulsion

3. How much more efficient can nuclear propulsion be compared to chemical systems?

Option: One to three times
Option: Two to five times
Option: Three to six times
Option: Four to seven times

4. What is one of the major goals for the Mars mission?

Option: To increase chemical efficiency
Option: To launch satellites
Option: To reduce the travel time
Option: To set up a permanent base

5. What unique feature does the spacecraft plan to use?

Option: Helicopters
Option: Drones
Option: Robots
Option: Gliders

6. How long does it currently take to travel to Mars?

Option: Three to six months
Option: Six to nine months
Option: Nine to twelve months
Option: Twelve to fifteen months

True-False

7. NASA's mission to Mars will primarily use solar power.

8. Nuclear propulsion does not depend on sunlight.

9. The upcoming mission plans to use robots exclusively for exploration on Mars.

10. The new nuclear propulsion system could travel faster and carry more equipment.

11. NASA has already tested the nuclear engine to prove its effectiveness.

12. Chemical and solar power have no limits in speed and efficiency.

Gap-Fill

13. NASA plans to launch a nuclear-powered mission to Mars by _____.

14. The spacecraft will use _____ Electric Propulsion (NEP) for the mission.

15. Reducing the travel time to Mars is a major _____.

16. Currently, it takes six to nine months to get to _____.

17. The technology used is expected to be two to five times more _____ than chemical systems.

18. NASA hopes this mission will help future trips to _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Nuclear-powered mission 2. Nuclear Electric Propulsion 3. Two to five times 4. To reduce the travel time 5. Helicopters 6. Six to nine months
True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False
Gap-Fill: 13. 2028 14. Nuclear 15. goal 16. Mars 17. efficient

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL2

POST TAG

1. ESL learning
2. esl news
3. Level 2
4. Mars
5. nuclear-powered mission
6. Skyfall helicopters

Tags

1. ESL learning
2. esl news
3. Level 2
4. Mars
5. nuclear-powered mission
6. Skyfall helicopters

Date Created
2026/03/28
Author
aimeeyoung99