



Space startups excited as NASA turns \$11B Mars mission into open competition

Description

NASA's ambitious \$11 billion mission to collect and return samples from Mars is facing a major rethink, with administrator Bill Nelson deeming it too costly and the 2040 timeline too distant. This shift presents an opportunity for space startups, as the agency plans to redirect funding towards more affordable and timely solutions.

The Mars Sample Return mission, originally slated to cost \$8-11 billion and finish by 2040, is now being reevaluated. NASA is seeking proposals from industry to potentially expedite the process, with a focus on reducing costs and complexity.

This news is a game-changer for companies like Intuitive Machines, known for their lunar landing success, who could now compete for a lucrative contract. Additionally, advancements in launch vehicle technology, such as Blue Origin's New Glenn and SpaceX's Starship, may play a crucial role in the mission's success.

With a shift towards commercial partnerships, NASA acknowledges the evolving landscape of space exploration and the need to adapt. Although details are still pending, the promise of a revamped Mars mission driven by private industry marks a significant step towards ambitious interplanetary goals.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Rethink** // (verb): To think again about something especially in order to change or improve it.
2. **Administrator** // (noun): A person responsible for managing and running a business or organization.
3. **Lucrative** // (adjective): Producing a great deal of profit.
4. **Expedite** // (verb): To make something happen more quickly.
5. **Revamped** // (adjective): Improved or updated.
6. **Interplanetary** // (adjective): Relating to or involving more than one planet.

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What term is used to describe an additional item that complements and enhances one's outfit or appearance?

Option: Jacket



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- Option: Accessory
Option: Shoe
Option: Jeans
2. Which field of study focuses on the origins and eventual fate of the universe?
Option: Microbiology
Option: Astronomy
Option: Cosmology
Option: Psychology
3. Which technology is designed to simulate the way a human brain operates?
Option: Neural Network
Option: Web Browser
Option: Database
Option: Operating System
4. Which term is related to money or currency?
Option: Medical
Option: Monetary
Option: Educational
Option: Environmental
5. What word describes the process of coming into being or being created?
Option: Destruction
Option: Formation
Option: Evaporation
Option: Expansion
6. What is the process of verifying the identity of a user or process?
Option: Approval
Option: Authentication
Option: Selection
Option: Rejection
7. Which term means to reconsider or reassess something?
Option: Proceed
Option: Stagnate
Option: Maintain
Option: Rethink
8. What describes an extremely strong reaction of anger shock or indignation?
Option: Joy
Option: Outrage



- Option: Apathy
Option: Calmness

9. Which term signifies a person's name written in a distinctive way as a form of identification?

- Option: Initial
Option: Letter
Option: Autograph
Option: Signature

10. What term describes something that is essential basic or foundational?

- Option: Advanced
Option: Insignificant
Option: Fundamental
Option: Optional

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

11. A _____ is the combining of two or more companies into a single entity.
12. To _____ a process means to make it happen more quickly or efficiently.
13. _____ involves examining and breaking down a complex topic or substance into its parts for closer examination.
14. _____ refers to the total number of people inhabiting a certain area or country.
15. Feeling _____ means being confused puzzled or baffled by something.
16. The newly _____ plan aims to increase efficiency in the production process.
17. A _____ is a range or series of related things or ideas.
18. _____ travel involves crossing or relating to multiple planets within a solar system.
19. _____ often offer evaluations or opinions on books movies and other forms of art.
20. The _____ of new evidence shed light on the true sequence of events.

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



21. The use of products aims to enhance or alter one's appearance.
22. Over time data will in the system requiring regular maintenance.
23. The science of delves into the properties and interactions of celestial bodies.
24. Investing in real estate can be a business if done strategically.
25. After a major renovation the old building was into a modern office space.
26. An is a set of instructions designed to perform a specific task or solve a problem.
27. The world continues to grow presenting challenges for resource management.
28. The companies announced a corporate to streamline operations and reduce costs.
29. The philosophical of dualism explores the relationship between mind and body.
30. The artist left the meaning of the painting open to personal by viewers.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Accessory 2. Cosmology 3. Neural Network 4. Monetary 5. Formation 6. Authentication 7. Rethink 8. Outrage 9. Signature 10. Fundamental

Gap-Fill: 11. Merger 12. Expedite 13. Analysis 14. Population 15. Perplexed 16. Proposed 17. Spectrum 18. Interplanetary 19. Critics 20. Uncovering

Matching sentence: 1. Cosmetic 2. Accumulate 3. Astrophysics 4. Lucrative 5. Revamped 6. Algorithm 7. Population 8. Merger 9. Notion 10. Interpretation

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL3

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Author

aimeeyoung99