



# 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.

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## 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  
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



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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



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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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