

**U.S. IN SPACE
A DECADE OF
ACHIEVEMENT
1961-1971**



U.S. In Space - A Decade of Achievement

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Houston, Texas
Huntsville, Alabama
Kennedy Space Center, Florida



**VIKING 2
MISSION**

VIKING

The second spaceship in America's Project Viking was launched at Cape Canaveral, Florida on September 9, 1975, at 2:30 p.m. EDT. Again, a Titan-Centaur III launch vehicle was used to put the craft into space for its year-long journey to Mars.

Viking 2 inserted into orbit around Mars on August 7, 1976, after a 40-minute firing of its main on-board rocket. This put the craft on a looping pathway, allowing it to survey wider regions of the planet. It had reached its destination after a 446-million mile trip from Earth.

The nerve center of Viking Operations is the Viking Mission Control and Computing Center (VMCCC) located at The Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. A 750-person flight team of engineers, scientists and technicians maintain constant control of the Viking spacecraft throughout the planetary phase of the mission.



Viking 2 landed on the Utopia dunes of Mars on September 3, 1976 to press the search for life but communication problems with its orbiting mothercraft blacked out details and delayed receipt of its first pictures. The landing site was 1,500 miles farther north and halfway around the planet from the Chryse desert where Viking 1 landed. The landing was at 3:58 p.m. PDT.

The lander, weighing more than half a ton, will carry out some 60 days of constant experiments. There will be a break in November when Mars and Earth are on opposite sides of the sun, eliminating communications for a month. When the landers are once again in touch with Earth, they will alternate conducting tests for as long as they hold up in the harsh Martian environment.

America's Project Viking spaceship to Mars blasted away from Earth August 20, 1975 on a 505-million-mile journey to explore for life on the red planet. A Titan Centaur launch vehicle, America's most powerful rocket since retirement of the Saturn V, fired the twin Viking orbiter-lander into a 105-mile-high parking orbit at 5:22 p.m. EDT. Then, about 30 minutes later, the rocket's third stage fired for the second time and hurled the spacecraft on its 10-month journey.

The Viking Mission will conduct scientific investigations from orbit, during entry and on the Martian surface. It will be the first Mars mission to land science instruments on the surface of the planet. Costing \$1 billion, the Viking Project is more expensive by almost \$300 million than all the 11 previous planetary explorations combined. It took almost seven years to get Viking from the drawing boards to the launch pad, with 12,000 people working on it.

THE VIKING MISSION



MARS



DRIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED Bicentennial Era

VIKING 1



The first of two unmanned spacecraft launched on August 20, 1975, began its ten-month journey to Mars. Once there, it will land and begin a search for signs of life.