



Jet Propulsion
Laboratory
California Institute of
Technology



Bobak Ferdowsi

Mars Science Laboratory Flight Director

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,000

(Music)

2
00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:08,000

(Bobak Ferdowsi) Hi, I'm Bobak Ferdowsi, flight director on the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity mission

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00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:14,000

and I'm back with another rover report. This past week on Mars, we did the SAM atmospheric sample,

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00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:18,000

which is basically like taking a deep breath on Mars and smelling for chemicals.

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00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:22,000

We also did a drive. The beginning of our road trip basically. Along the drive,

6
00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:27,000

you'll see our tracks on Mars and within the tracks you'll see a series of dots and dashes.

7
00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:28,000

Those are actually Morse code on the wheels.

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00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:32,000

(Morse code sound effect)

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00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:34,000

The Morse code spells out 'J-P-L,' but in reality,

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00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:38,000

it's a very important way for us to measure how far we're driving each day.

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00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:42,000

We know how many cycles or how many rotations the wheel makes, but seeing that confirmation on the ground

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00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:47,000

of each rotation, helps us to analyze the soil to understand if we're slipping or not.

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00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:52,000

In fact, you can see on the side of my head, I've got the Morse code shaved in.

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00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:58,000

We also took a Mastcam 100 panorama, that's the 100 mm Mastcam camera on the rover, of Mt. Sharp

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00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:01,000

and it's buttes, and you can see all the beauty of Mt. Sharp in that.

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00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:04,000

(Voice of Charles Bolden)

'Hello, this is Charlie Bolden, NASA Administrator,

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:10,000

speaking to you via the broadcast capabilities of the Curiosity rover.'

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:12,000

We also had two firsts on Mars this week. First, we played back

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:15,000

an audio file from Administrator Charlie Bolden congratulating the team.

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:19,000

That was the first time an audio file has been played back from Mars.

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00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:21,000

(Leland Melvin)

'Roll the song. Here we go!'

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:30,000

(Music)

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00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:33,000

And second, on Tuesday, we played back the will.i.am song, 'Reach for the Stars,'

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00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:38,000

meant to inspire kids and that's the first time a song has ever been beamed back from Mars.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:43,000

Coming up with the rover, we'll be driving towards Glenelg. That's where we actually see three different types

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00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:47,000

of science materials and the scientists are really excited to get there.

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:49,000

Along the way though, you'll see several interesting things.