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## **RHubble Delivers Most Detailed Pictures Of Mars**

From: **Stig Agermose** <[stig.agermose@get2net.dk](mailto:stig.agermose@get2net.dk)>  
 Date: Sat, 03 Jul 1999 07:19:24  
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 Subject: RHubble Delivers Most Detailed Pictures Of Mars

Source: News release by the Space Telescope Science Institute,

<http://opposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/pr/1999/27/index.html>

Stig

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A Closer Encounter With Mars

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Taking advantage of Mars's closest approach to Earth in eight years, astronomers using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have taken the space-based observatory's sharpest views yet of the Red Planet. NASA is releasing these images to commemorate the second anniversary of the Mars Pathfinder landing.

The telescope's Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 snapped these images between April 27 and May 6, when Mars was 54 million miles (87 million kilometers) from Earth. From this distance the telescope could see Martian features as small as 12 miles (19 kilometers) wide. The telescope obtained four images, which, together, show the entire planet. Each view depicts the planet as it completes one quarter of its daily rotation.

These Hubble telescope snapshots reveal that substantial changes in the bright and dark markings on Mars have occurred in the 20 years since the NASA Viking spacecraft missions first mapped the planet. These images show that the Martian surface is dynamic and ever changing. Some regions that were dark 20 years ago are now bright red; some areas that were bright red are now dark. Winds move sand and dust from region to region, often in spectacular dust storms. Over long timescales many of the larger bright and dark markings remain stable, but smaller details come and go as they are covered and then uncovered by sand and dust.

See the full caption for more information.

Photo credits: Steve Lee (University of Colorado), Jim Bell (Cornell University), Mike Wolff (Space Science Institute), and NASA

Other researchers involved in the collection and analysis of these Hubble telescope data are R. Todd Clancy (Space Science Institute), Philip James (University of Toledo), and Michael Ravine (Malin Space Science Systems, Inc.).

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The Space Telescope Science Institute is operated by the

Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA), for NASA, under contract with the Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD. The Hubble Space Telescope is a project of international cooperation between NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).

\*Office of Public Outreach

[outreach@stsci.edu](mailto:outreach@stsci.edu)

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Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

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