

Mars robots to become smarter

May 30 2006



NASA reportedly plan to upgrade its Mars rovers' programs to help them more intelligently deal with observing phenomenon on the Red Planet.

The new algorithms to be uploaded into the rovers' memory banks will give them the ability to search images they have taken to find specific phenomena that is significant enough to transmit to Earth, the BBC reported Tuesday.

"An instrument can acquire considerably more data than can be down-linked -- this is a recurring theme on all spacecraft," said Rebecca

Castano of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

The space agency's Mars Odyssey spacecraft that's been orbiting Mars since 2001 will also get new, upgraded software this year, the BBC said.

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Citation: Mars robots to become smarter (2006, May 30) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2006-05-mars-robots-smarter.html>

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