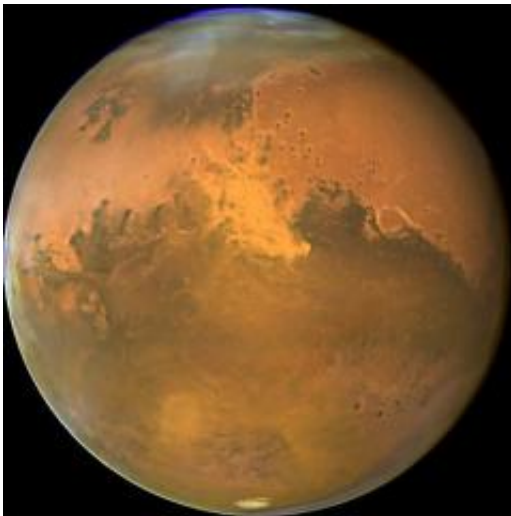


China's first Mars orbiter in Russia for launch: state media

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This NASA Hubble Space Telescope image shows Mars in 2005. China's first satellite to probe Mars has been transported to Russia for a launch later this year, state media reported Thursday.

China's first satellite to probe Mars has been transported to Russia for a launch later this year, state media reported Thursday.

Yinghuo-1, the 110-kilogramme (242-pound) Chinese [satellite](#), is scheduled to be launched along with Russia's "Phobos Explorer" aboard a Zenit rocket in October after final testing, the Beijing News said.

After entering Mars' [orbit](#) -- 10 to 11 months later -- the orbiter will

probe the Martian [space](#) environment, with a special focus on what happened to the water that appears to have once been abundant on the planet's surface.

The satellite, developed by the Shanghai Space Administration, will carry eight pieces of equipment including two cameras, the report said.

China became the third nation to put a man into space when Yang Liwei piloted the one-man Shenzhou-5 [space mission](#) in 2003.

Last September, the Shenzhou-7, piloted by three "taikonauts" or astronauts, carried out China's first space walk.

China will launch a space module next year and carry out the nation's first space docking in 2011 as a step towards its goal of building a space station, state media said earlier.

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