

Cameron helping build 3-D camera for Mars rover

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(AP) -- "Avatar" director James Cameron is helping to build a high-resolution 3-D camera on the next-generation Mars rover.

The [camera](#) will be mounted atop Curiosity, the next rover mission to Mars set for launch next year.

Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory scaled back its plans in 2007 to mount a 3-D camera atop Curiosity because the upcoming flagship mission to Mars was consistently over budget and behind schedule.

But Cameron lobbied [NASA](#) administrator Charles Bolden for inclusion of the 3-D camera during a January meeting, saying a rover with a better set of eyes will help the public connect with the mission.

Bolden was convinced.

San Diego-based Malin Space Science Systems is now building the 3-D mast camera with Cameron listed as co-investigator.

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