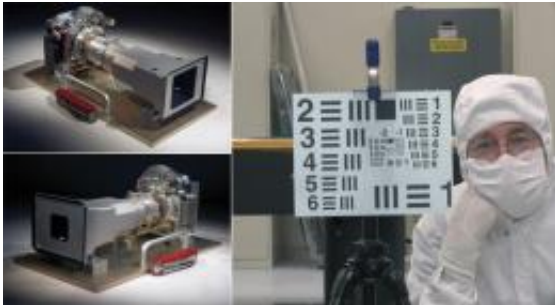


San Diego Team Delivers Camera for Next Mars Rover

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The Mastcam instrument for NASA's Mars Science Laboratory will use a side-by-side pair of cameras for examining terrain around the mission's rover. Image credit: NASA/JPL/Malin Space Science Systems

(PhysOrg.com) -- Malin Space Science Systems Inc., San Diego, has delivered the two cameras for the Mast Camera instrument that will be the science-imaging workhorse of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory rover, to be launched next year.

The instrument, called Mastcam, has been tested and is ready for installation onto the rover, named Curiosity, which is being built at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif.

The two component cameras have different fixed focal lengths: 34 millimeters and 100 millimeters (telephoto) and can provide high-definition color video. [NASA](#) is also providing funds for Malin to build

an alternative version with zoom lenses on both cameras, in collaboration with movie producer James Cameron, a member of the Mastcam team.

If the zoom pair can be completed in time for rover assembly and testing, the fixed-focal-length pair could be swapped out for them. Malin has also delivered the [Mars](#) Hand Lens Imager and the Mars Descent Imager for the Mars Science Laboratory.

Provided by JPL/NASA

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