

# Mars Curiosity Takes First Baby Steps (w/ Video)

July 26 2010

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Mars Curiosity team members gather in the clean room at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to watch the rover roll for the first time. Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

(PhysOrg.com) -- Like proud parents, mission team members gathered in a gallery above a clean room at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to watch the Mars Curiosity rover roll for the first time.

Engineers and technicians wore "bunny suits" while guiding Curiosity through its first steps, or more precisely, its first roll on the clean room floor. The rover moved forward and backward about 1 meter (3.3 feet).

Mars Science Laboratory (aka Curiosity) is scheduled to launch in fall

2011 and land on the [Red Planet](#) in August 2012.

Curiosity is the largest rover ever sent to [Mars](#). It will carry 10 instruments that will help search an intriguing region of the Red Planet for two things:

1. Environments where life might have existed
2. The capacity of those environments to preserve evidence of past life

**More information:** Learn more about Curiosity at [mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/](https://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/)

Provided by JPL/NASA

Citation: Mars Curiosity Takes First Baby Steps (w/ Video) (2010, July 26) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-07-mars-curiosity-baby-video.html>

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