

Curiosity preparing for second scoop

October 15 2012, by Guy Webster



This 360-degree scene shows the surroundings of the location where NASA Mars rover Curiosity arrived on the 59th Martian day, or sol, of the rover's mission on Mars (Oct. 5, 2012). It is a mosaic of images taken by Curiosity's Navigation Camera (Navcam) on sols 59 and 60. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

On Sol 65 (Oct. 11, 2012) of the Mars Science Laboratory mission, NASA's Mars rover Curiosity [completed several activities](#) in preparation for collecting its second scoop of soil. Like the first scoop, the next will

come from a ripple of sand and dust at "Rocknest," and will be used for cleaning interior surfaces of the sample-handling chambers on the arm.

The Collection and Handling for In-Situ [Martian Rock](#) Analysis (CHIMRA) tool on the end of arm shook out remnants of the first scoopful and posed for camera inspection to verify it was emptied. The Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) moved close some loose material on the ground to get a good look. Seeing more detail in the object will help engineers finish assessing whether this loose material from the spacecraft poses any concern for future operations. A raw image from that MAHLI activity is at 1.usa.gov/Qgs5ha .

Sol 65, in Mars local mean solar time at Gale Crater, ended at 2:22 a.m. Oct. 12, PDT (5:22 a.m., EDT).

Provided by JPL/NASA

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