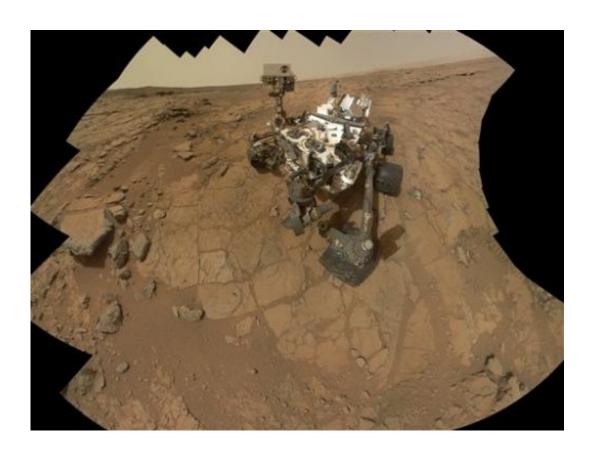


Mars rover back in action after computer problems

March 25 2013



An undated file image released by NASA shows a self-portrait of NASA's Mars rover Curiosity. After back-to-back computer problems, the six-wheel rover has resumed its science experiments. (NASA)

The Mars rover Curiosity is humming again after being sidelined by back-to-back computer problems.



The six-wheel rover fired up its onboard laboratories and analyzed a pinch of rock dust over the weekend. It had been unable to perform science experiments since late last month after experiencing a computer memory problem.

Mission managers say Curiosity will work for a week before it takes another break. But this one is planned, because the sun will block communications between Earth and Mars.

Before the computer woes, Curiosity drilled into a rock, tested the powder and found it contained some of the chemical ingredients necessary for microbial life. There are plans to drill into another rock before setting off for a mountain later this year.

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Citation: Mars rover back in action after computer problems (2013, March 25) retrieved 25 April 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2013-03-mars-rover-action-problems.html

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