

Starchaser Rover: A Construction Update and Tour

Graham Mann

School of Information Technology,
Murdoch University, South St. Murdoch,
Western Australia 6150
g.mann@murdoch.edu.au

Abstract

An essential component of any future human Mars mission is a pressurised, automated vehicle capable of safely and comfortably carrying a small crew of explorers distances on the order of hundreds of kilometers from the landing site. The design of such a vehicle presents many technical questions and challenges. As a practical contribution to the needed design effort, the Mars Society Australia's Project Marsupial aims to construct and operate a practical, affordable, all wheel drive off-road vehicle for simulating exploratory sorties and for raising public awareness of the value of a Mars mission. An update on progress in the construction of this vehicle, including some innovative methods of surmounting the labour shortage which has dogged the project are discussed, and the audience is invited to inspect the partially constructed machine.

