

Mars Science Laboratory Entry, Descent and Landing System Design, Development and Prelaunch Status

In late November of 2011 the Mars Science Laboratory mission will launch from Kennedy Space Center in Florida headed for Mars. This mission will deliver the largest ever extraterrestrial lander. Further this landed system is a mobile rover and the MSL entry descent and landing system delivers it on its wheels ready for commissioning. This MSL EDL system provides more performance, in mass delivery, altitude capability, landed accuracy than any Mars EDL system before it. This paper will document the MSL EDL design and development and its status for launch readiness.