

Space Frontier Foundation Mars Policy

- The Space Frontier Foundation believes it is the destiny of humanity to open and settle space.
- The Foundation's vision of the space frontier is of an ever-widening human domain, and our goal is extending the terrestrial biosphere outward from our mother Earth.
- The Foundation is for the exploration of Mars, particularly as it enables the settlement of Mars and the rest of the solar system.
- The Foundation is for the development and demonstration of pioneering technologies that will enable the exploration and settlement of Mars.
- The Foundation is for humans going to Mars, as we are for humans going everywhere that it makes technical, economic, scientific, environmental sense to go. That's what an open frontier means.
- The Foundation believes it is not the destination, but the intent, that matters. In the case of Mars, we believe that any exploration program must be structured to support the goal of settlement.
- The Foundation believes the appropriate roles for the public and private sectors in space must be resolved before any successful Mars program can be sustained.
- The Foundation supports federal involvement and leadership regarding Mars that is analogous to the Lewis and Clark role on the American western frontier here on Earth - and a role it has already fulfilled in the Earth-Moon system (the Near Frontier). This includes early exploration, surveying and scientific research.
- To achieve this, the government must release its grip on Near Frontier activities that are the natural strength of the private sector. Primarily, it must privatize and commercialize all infrastructure and operations such as the space station and space transportation system. This will free up enormous resources to begin the exploration of the Far Frontier, including Mars.
- The Foundation thus supports the reallocation of NASA's budget away from those tasks best accomplished using the free enterprise system and towards Far Frontier exploration efforts, including the opening of Mars. For this and other reasons, the Foundation is leading the fight for the privatization and commercialization of all Near Frontier activities.
- However, the Foundation does not expect nor support a dramatic increase of NASA's budget that could be used to fund a massive "flags and footprints" Apollo-style program, as we believe it is politically unworkable, and does not lead to widespread, cheap, and permanent human settlement soon enough.
- Furthermore, we support innovative methods to catalyze and encourage the private sector's involvement in the opening and settlement of Mars. Mechanisms could include: prizes for advancements in needed technologies, purchases of data, tax and investment incentives and the government being a good customer to those offering other cost-saving products and services.
- **In summary:** *A frontier-opening space enterprise, including both government space agencies and the private sector, will give all of us a chance to achieve our dreams for both the exploration, development and settlement of Mars and the rest of the solar system.*