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07/07/2008 - USA Today

Curious robots could search for intelligent life on distant planets

A spaceship descends with a thunderous roar and deposits a futuristic probe before taking off again. The Extraterrestrial Vegetation Evaluator (EVE) soon activates and begins flying around, scanning the barren surface for signs of life. **ROBOTS ON MARS: Mars Science Laboratory mission page**

Scientists today can only dream of having a robotic explorer like EVE from the Disney/Pixar film WALL-E. But some researchers are working on...

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Quotes

...on Mars. **"Curiosity in itself is not present in any of our machine systems"** Fink said, remarking...

...Fink noted. **"At Caltech, we are now at the point where we're implementing a test-bed outdoors to develop the software to demonstrate this in action."** The outdoors test would...

...distant worlds. **"The orbiter gives you global perspective, the aerial platform a more regional perspective, and that helps determine where to deploy ground assets in a targeted fashion"** said Wolfgang Fink...

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Canadian Weather Station On Mars Running Smoothly, Scientists Say

Canada, which is part of a group working to bring samples of Mars back to Earth, has helped the mission exploring the Red Planet to get more bang for its buck, says a key American scientist. Peter Smith, the lead scientist behind the Phoenix Mars Lander, ... [14 hours ago - CBC]

Entities: Peter Smith, Earth, Instrumentation Laboratory, Montreal

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New airship projects are emerging. These ideas are worth a serious look, just in case....

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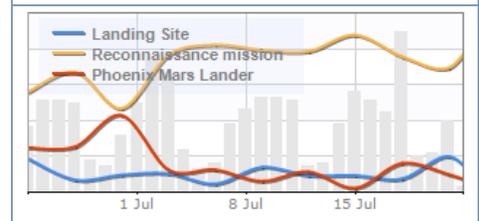
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Revealing the secrets of the red planet

This image shows a color-enhanced image of the delta in Jezero Crater on Mars, which once held a lake. Photograph: JPL/Nasa/APAn ancient waterway in the southern highlands of Mars breaks through the wall of a giant crater, flooding a huge lake with water ... [07/18/2008 - Guardian Unlimited]

Entities: Reconnaissance, Scott Murchie

First reported 07/16/2008 - Updated 07/17/2008

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Diverse, Wet Environments Found On Ancient Mars

WASHINGTON -- Two studies based on data from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter have revealed that the Red Planet once hosted vast lakes, flowing rivers and a variety of other wet environments that had the potential to support life. One study, published ... [07/17/2008 - Red Orb]t]

Entities: Scott Murchie, NASA

First reported 07/19/2008 - Updated 07/19/2008

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Zeppelin Street: Meet the neighbours who witnessed the first airship fly over London in decades (Evening Standard)

This is the way to see London as few have seen it before (except a handful of Germans in uniform). Dangling from the underbelly of a helium-filled behemoth more than 200ft long, you cruise over the capital, taking in all the great sights from just a few ... [07/19/2008 - Europhions Finance]

Entities: London, John Betjeman, Steve Davis, Robert Knox

First reported 07/18/2008 - Updated 07/19/2008

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Mars Orbiter Finds Evidence For Ancient Rivers, Lakes

Towards Anonymous points out news that studies based on data from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter have found that vast regions of Mars contained rivers and lakes when the planet was young. The studies also suggest that the water existed for quite some ... [07/19/2008 - Slashdot]

Entities: Evidence, Reconnaissance, Spectrometer, Solar System

First reported 07/19/2008 - Updated 07/19/2008

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Robots of the Future Will Show Empathy, Be Good Listeners

European researchers are developing a software that will give robots the power to learn when a person is sad, happy or angry. The Felix Growing project is putting together simple robots that can detect different parameters-facial expressions, voice and ... [07/19/2008 - Gizmodo]

Entities: Robotics, Ethology

First reported 07/18/2008 - Updated 07/19/2008

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Imager For Mars Lab Delivered

Technicians at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) will begin integrating a new descent camera into NASA's 2009 Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) within the month, after completion of avionics testing. Malin Space Science Systems (MSSS) says its Mars Descent ... [07/19/2008 - Aviation Week]

Entities: Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Space Science, NASA, Michael Malin

First reported 07/15/2008 - Updated 07/16/2008

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Mars Phoenix Lander Protects Itself From Bad NASA Commands

The shut its robotic arm down over the weekend, refusing to follow NASA directions after 'realizing' those actions would have damaged its wrist. NASA programmers had to send new code to bring the arm back to life, and are now augmenting the original ... [07/16/2008 - Gizmodo]

Entities: NASA, Ray Arvidson, Phoenix Mars Lander, Peter Smith

First reported 07/16/2008 - Updated 07/16/2008

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More evidence shows Mars once was wet all over

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Minerals in the soil of Mars show it was covered once by lakes, rivers and other bodies of water that could have supported life, U.S. researchers reported on Wednesday. ... [07/16/2008 - Reuters: Science News]

Entities: Evidence