

# Mars Exploration Rovers

2003

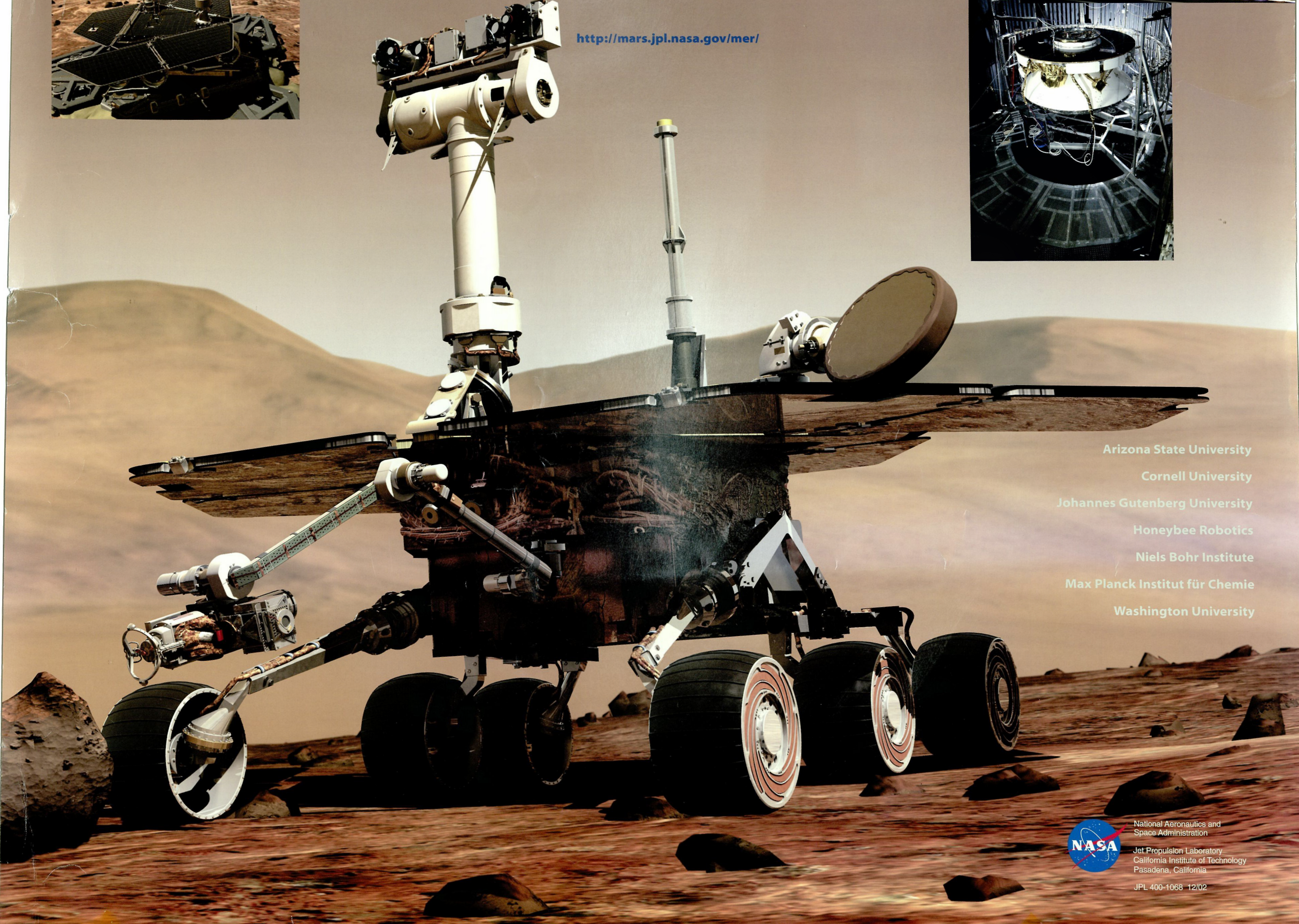
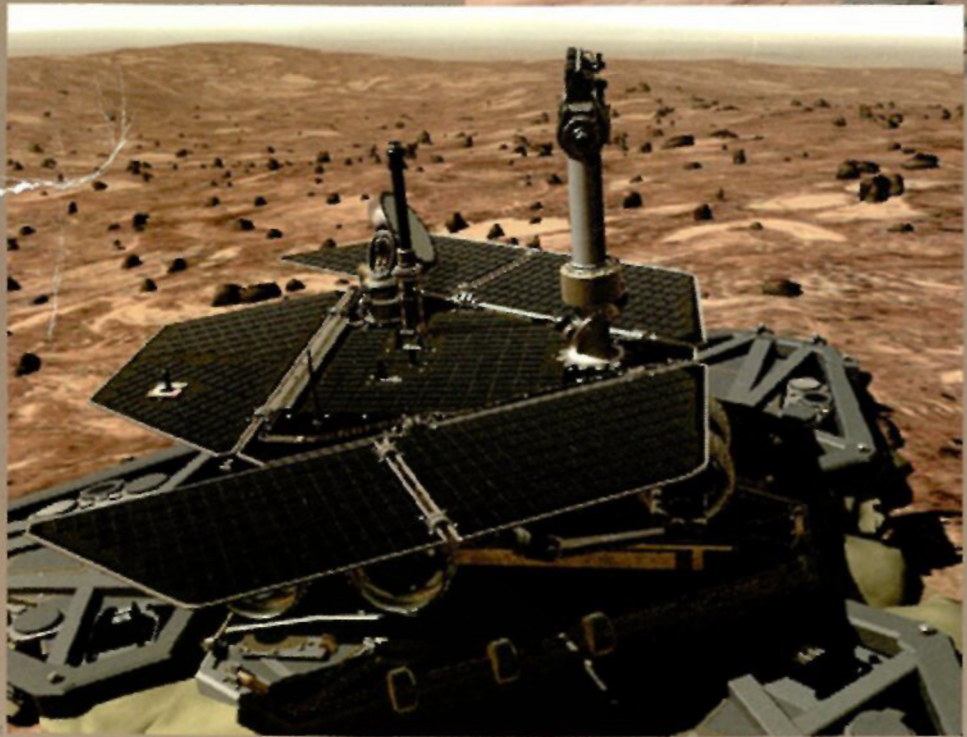
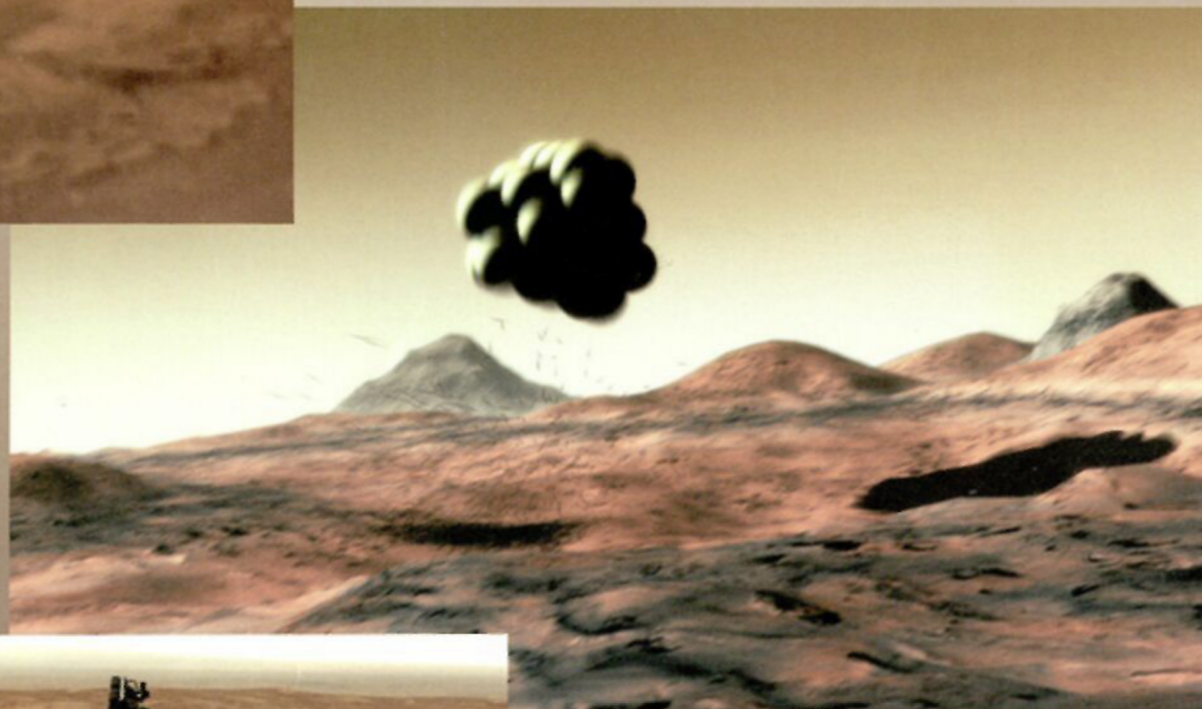
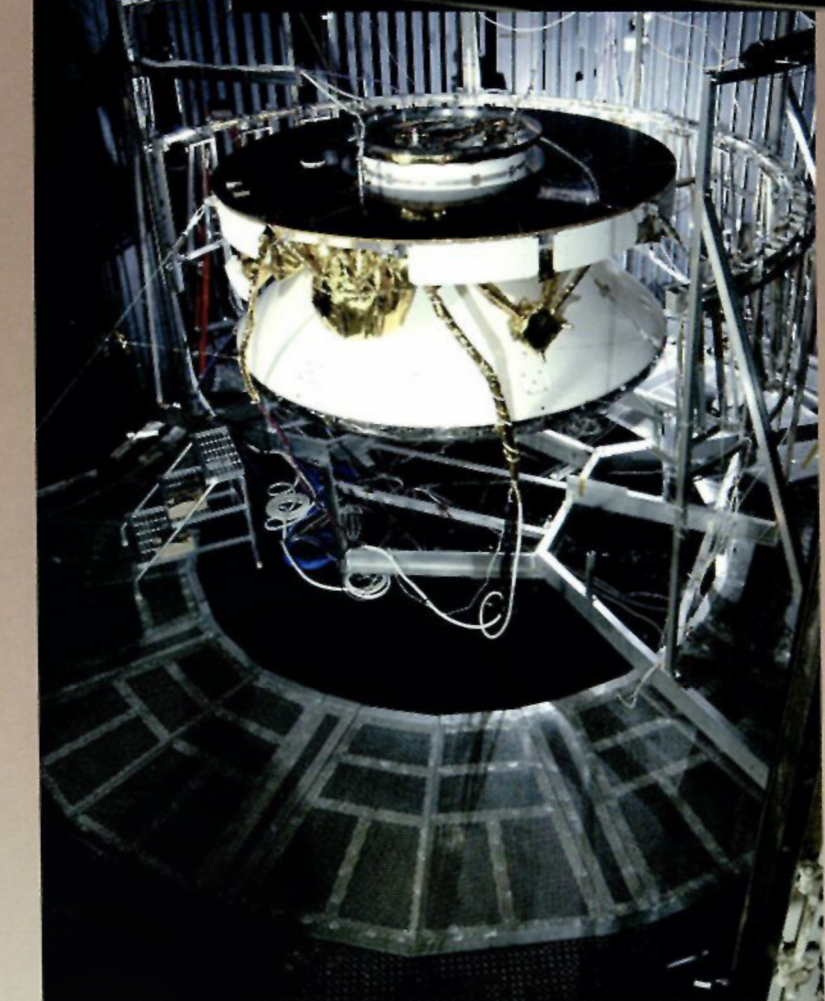
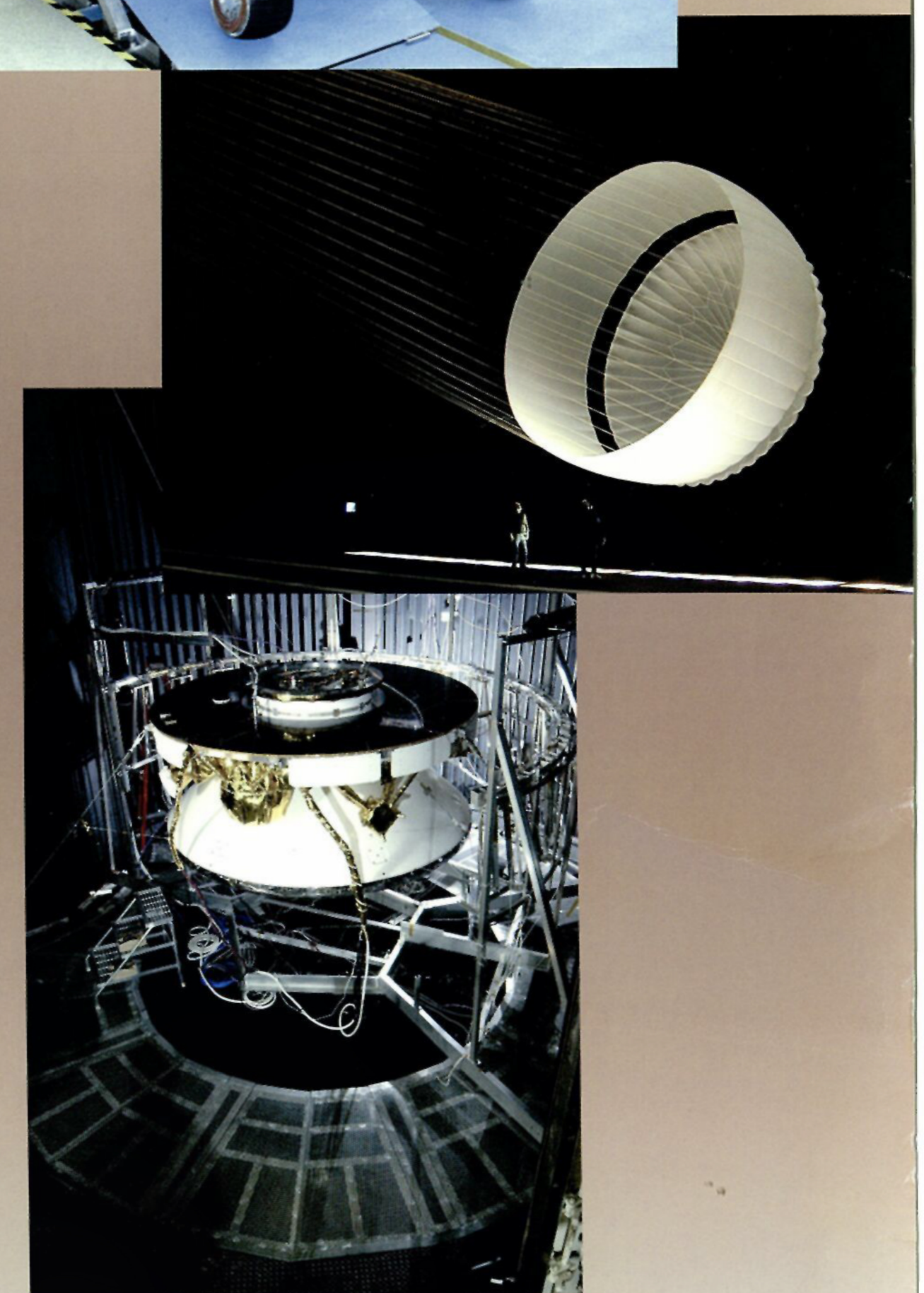
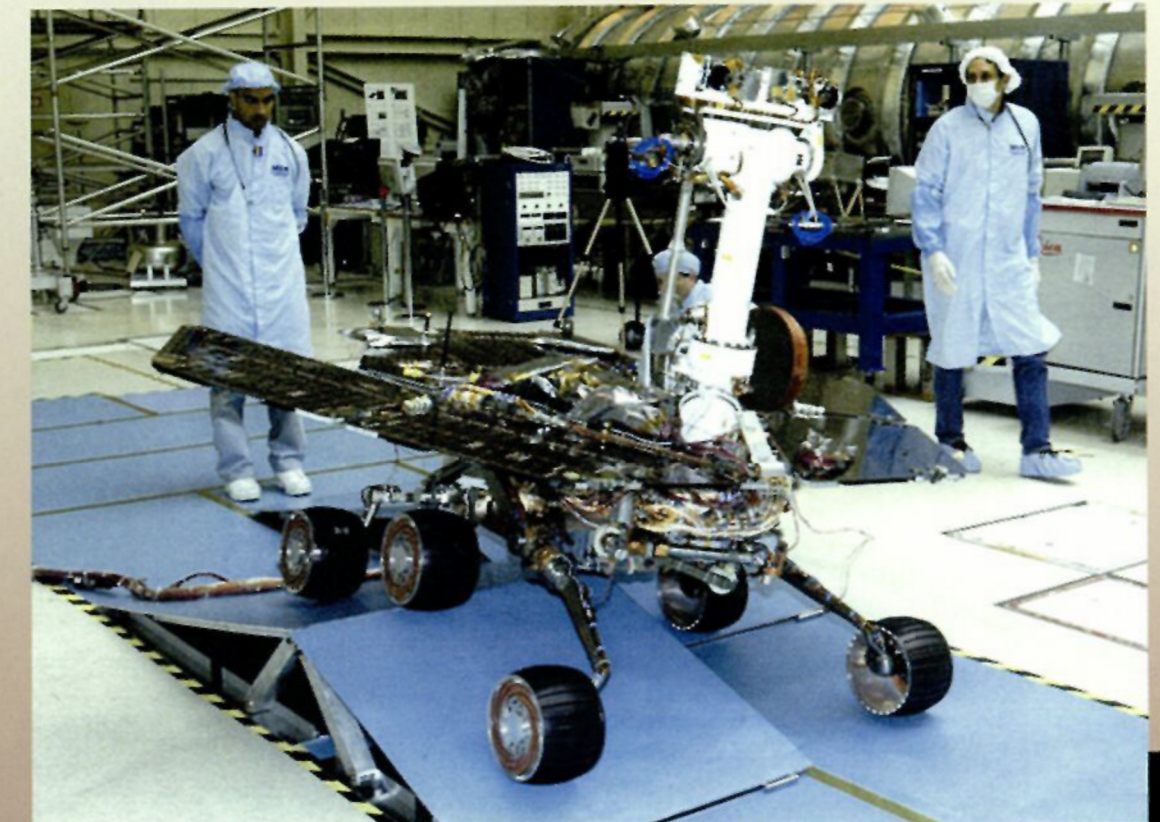
In mid-2003, NASA will launch two Mars Exploration Rovers from Cape Canaveral. Each will enter the martian atmosphere early in 2004. Parachutes will slow each spacecraft down, and airbags will cushion their landings.

Each rover can drive many tens of meters per martian day. Once deployed, they will explore sites where liquid water may once have been present.

The rovers' instruments will be used to examine rocks and soils, investigating what the martian environment once was like and how suitable it may have been for life.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology manages the Mars Exploration Rover mission for NASA.

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mer/>



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