

Re: NASA Rushing To Mars As Per Bush's Policy

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2005-02/2525.html>

From: Sander Vesik (*sander_at_haldjas.folklore.ee*)

Date: 02/23/05

Date: Wed, 23 Feb 2005 16:11:49 +0000 (UTC)

In sci.space.policy OrionCA <OrionCA@earthlink.net> wrote:

- > *On Tue, 22 Feb 2005 17:44:40 GMT, "Steven L."*
- > *<sdlitvin@earthlinkNOSPAM.net> wrote:*
- >
- >
- > *>Meanwhile, scientists worry about the impact of the huge enterprise on*
- > *>other endeavors, such as astronomy, physics and climate change.*
- >
- > *Translation: "I WANT MINE! NOW!"*
- >
- > *If there are Earthlike planets orbiting other stars I'm sure they'll*
- > *still be there in 2012. Europa either has liquid water under the*
- > *surface or it doesn't: No one seriously gives a damn except that*
- > *they're afraid they'll have to teach Physics 101 to the freshmen next*
- > *year instead of live off a government grant.*

I do. I know lots of other people who also do. And neither I nor them get their money from governments, directly or not.

- >
- > *Meanwhile the Space shuttle fleet remains grounded; the follow-on*

So what?

- > *Second Generation Shuttles are still wet dreams on somebody's drafting*
- > *board, and the cost of building these, returning to the Moon, and*
- > *manned exploration of Mars go up by the day. These goals are*

That problem is only really solvable by either giving NASA considerably more money or reforming it, neither of which the Congress is willing to do. Money spent on actual space missions that actually work and give some results have little to do with it.

- > *attainable in the short (10-15 year) term, we've put them off far too*
- > *long already. The Space Shuttle was slated to *retire* in 2005, not*
- > *limp along for another 5-7 years. These Qwut Widdle Wobots sending*
- > *back pictures of rocks named for Harvey Comics characters are nice but*
- > *we need to put some boots on the ground to get any REAL science done.*

sci.space.policy: Re: NASA Rushing To Mars As Per Bush's Policy

No we don't. Real space science can and will continue regardless of any human spaceflight mumbo-jumbo going on or not. Sure, in cases humans could find out more but ... as long as there aren't radical changes to as to how such far off-earth missions are planned, carried out and thought of (specificly, they will have to be about science, not somebodys national pride or trying to carve out some extra fame) with the clear acceptance that loss of life is unavoidable and may well occur it is entirely pointless.

--

Sander

+++ Out of cheese error +++