

Is USA going to be embarrassed by China getting to Mars first

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- *From:* schumache1234@xxxxxxxxxx
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I think we have another space race on our hands. America says it is going to the Moon and then on to Mars (I bet the money never comes through for the latter).

Why go to the Moon and especially if the plan is to set up a base which is going to cost a fortune.

We have supposedly been there, so why not push our boundaries a bit further and get on with the real job of landing some people on Mars.

If China simply sets its goal as safely landing some astronauts on Mars with no plan for their return, they could easily achieve this within a few years.

We can assume they would provide enough resources so that they could set up a base and be semi-self sufficient .ie enough food to survive their optimistic lifetimes.

apparently China already has ten times the number of staff employed in their space industry. India and Russia must also be thinking along the same lines.

America and Europe would probably be best to rely on private enterprise with a privately funded attempt to land on Mars which is really not any more stupid or dangerous than the first attempts at getting to the South Pole or to the top of Mt. Everest.

I am pretty sure that Burt Rutan would be thinking along these lines (he actually has said this to me) and with the right finances would aim to achieve this within his lifetime.

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