

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

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- *From:* "Jorge R. Frank" <jrfrank@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 09 Apr 2006 12:32:20 -0500
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Cardman <do-not@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
news:mbl1i329fm8g54p6uu6iss0imnq0cqof8r5@xxxxxxxx:

China currently plans to have people on the Moon by 2017 I recall.

That's a myth, I'm afraid, initiated by mistranslation of Chinese official remarks and maintained by rampant cross-quoting among the media.

2017 is the date for a Chinese *robotic* lunar sample return mission.

Yes, but China's current launch rate and hardware is not currently reflecting this advantage. They are far below Russia and do a good job for competition with the go nowhere quickly Space Shuttle.

Look at the timeline. China launched its first manned Shenzhou in 2003, the second in 2005, and plans to launch the third in 2008. They're taking as long between supposedly *nominal* flights as it has taken the space shuttle to recover from a catastrophic accident.

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JRF

Reply-to address spam-proofed – to reply by E-mail,
check "Organization" (I am not assimilated) and
think one step ahead of IBM.

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