

Re: Burt Rutans plans for a manned mission to Mars

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2006-05/msg00473.html>

- *From:* Fred J. McCall <fmccall@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 14 May 2006 02:19:04 GMT
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royls@xxxxxxxx wrote:

:On Fri, 12 May 2006 14:00:36 GMT, Fred J. McCall
:<fmccall@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:
:
:>royls@xxxxxxxx wrote:
:>
:>:On Fri, 12 May 2006 03:34:02 GMT, Fred J. McCall
:>:<fmccall@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:
:~>~>
:~>:~>If we can lift enough mass to put up a space elevator we don't need a
:~>:~>space elevator.
:~>:
:~>:~>?? ROTFL!! "If we can send enough men and supplies and equipment and
:~>:rails and crossies all the way across the continent to build a
:~>:railroad, we don't need a railroad."
:~>
:~>:~>Cute, but hardly the same thing.
:~>
:~>:~>Calculate the mass of your space elevator. Now figure out what it
:~>:costs to put up at current launch costs.
:~>:
:~>:~>Why? I have already described the bootstrap process that refutes that
:~>:arugment.

Unfortunately for you, I don't buy into arguments based on handwaving, pixie dust, and wishing real hard.

:~>:~>If launch costs come down enough for a space elevator to be
:~>:economically practical, launch costs are so low that the elevator is
:~>:redundant.
:~>:
:~>:~>It's the elevator itself that brings them down, by building itself. I
:~>:have already informed you of that. Can't you read?

And so you are postulating a large, sophisticated manufacturing plant up there churning out stuff that's stronger than anything we can currently make out materials that somehow magically get there (or you

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are postulating a hell of a space population already existing, in which case the elevator is probably unnecessary.

After all, if you can manufacture such a thing starting in space, what the hell do you need to bring up from Earth?

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"Some people get lost in thought because it's such unfamiliar territory."

—G. Behn

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