

Re: Space Policy: Why Mars should be our top priority.

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- *From:* Marvin the Martian <[marvin@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:marvin@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 19 Apr 2009 13:17:46 -0500
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On Sun, 19 Apr 2009 05:54:10 +0000, Derek Lyons wrote:

Marvin the Martian <[marvin@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:marvin@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

On Mon, 13 Apr 2009 03:28:49 +0000, Derek Lyons wrote:

Marvin the Martian <[marvin@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:marvin@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Actually, NASA was planning on going to Mars right after Apollo, back in the early 1970s. This technology is almost 40 years old.

Planning on doing something is not even remotely connected to the ability to do it. Folks were planning to go to the moon in the 40's, and 50's – despite the lack of technology to do so. It is very instructive to look back and see how very wrong they were about so many things.

There wasn't much more that they had in the 1950s that they didn't have on May 25th, 1961 when Kennedy gave his moon speech.

Yeah, they had a lot of things. Like the F-1 for starters. Or blunt body re-entry vehicles.\* Or actual working inertial guidance systems. (And the transistor based computers needed to make them work.)

Etc... Etc...

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A \*lot\* of technologies matured in the latter half of the fifties.

\*Werner Von Braun, that pinnacle of engineers, designed a moon ship that would have flat out melted on re-entry!

There wasn't much that was discovered between May 1961 and December 1959.

The point is, all the technology that didn't exist on May 1961 was developed during the 1960s space programs, all within 8 years. You entirely missed that point.

It is irrational to expect that every single technology be in place before we start going to Mars. We would, of course, develop the missing technologies.

Your defeatism and can't do attitud