

SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM (A3)
Mars Exploration – Part 1 (3A)

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MARS SCIENCE LABORATORY ENTRY, DESCENT AND LANDING SYSTEM, DESIGN
CAPABILITIES AND PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Abstract

The Mars Science Laboratory project recently placed the Curiosity rover safely on the surface of Mars. With the success of the landing system, the performance envelope of entry, descent, and landing (EDL) capabilities has been extended over the previous state of the art. This paper will present an overview of the MSL entry, descent and landing system design and preliminary flight performance results.