

The Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover Mission in Jezero Crater, Mars

Jesse Tarnas



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

© 2021 California Institute of Technology. Government sponsorship acknowledged.

Saturn




Mars



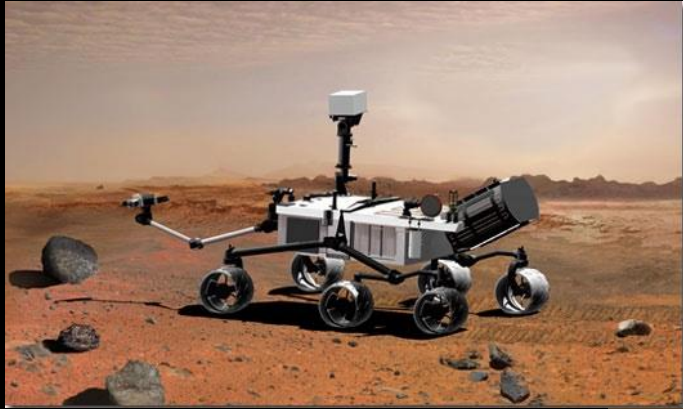
NASA



A dark, wide-angle photograph of a Martian landscape. The foreground shows a dark, rocky terrain. In the middle ground, there are several low, rounded hills or mountains. The sky is a deep, dark blue-grey color. In the center of the image, there is a white arrow pointing to the left, followed by the word "Earth" in white text.

← Earth

A Notional Three-Mission Mars Sample Return Campaign



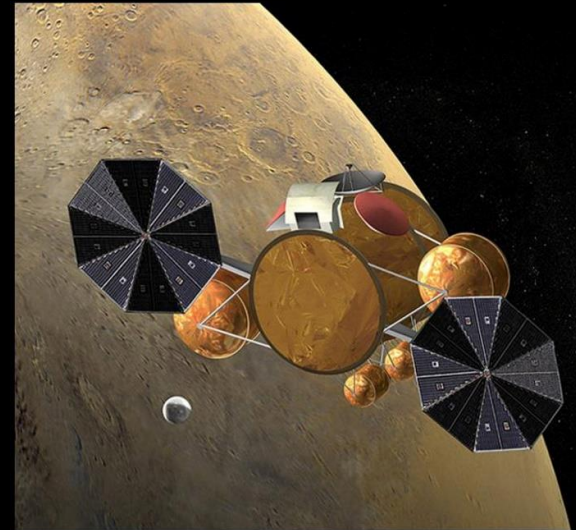
Sample Collection
(Mars 2020)



We are here



Mars Ascent Vehicle (MAV)
launches Orbiting Sample (OS)



Mars Orbiter captures OS and
brings it back to Earth



Martian meteorites



Regolith Breccia



Chassignite



Shergottite



Nakhlite



Mars image credit: NASA

Meteorite Image Credit: David Weir, Meteorite Studies

Mastcam-Z
Zoomable Panoramic Cameras

SuperCam
Laser Micro-Imager

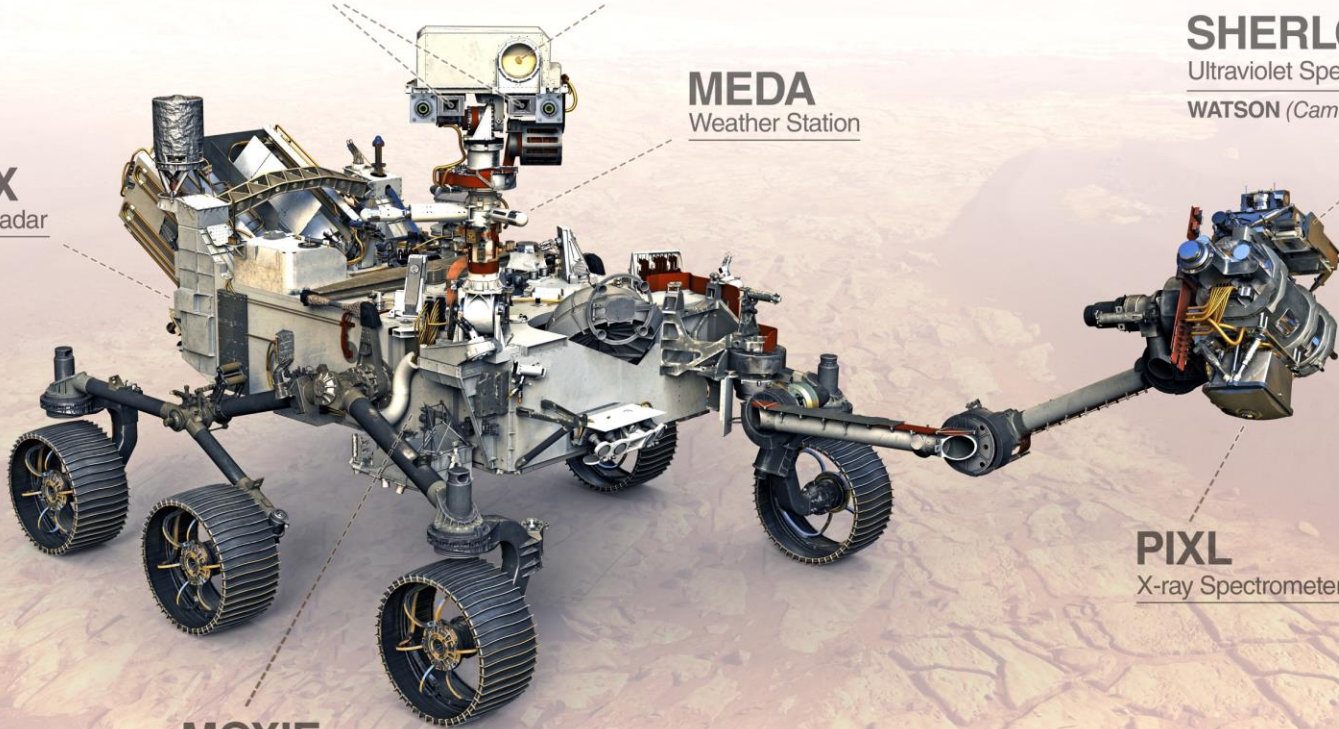
MEDA
Weather Station

SHERLOC
Ultraviolet Spectrometer
WATSON (Camera)

RIMFAX
Subsurface Radar

PIXL
X-ray Spectrometer

MOXIE
Produces Oxygen from Martian CO₂



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL



Perseverance loaded into heat shield





Rover, heat shield, cruise stage





Rover, heat shield, cruise stage





Transport to rocket



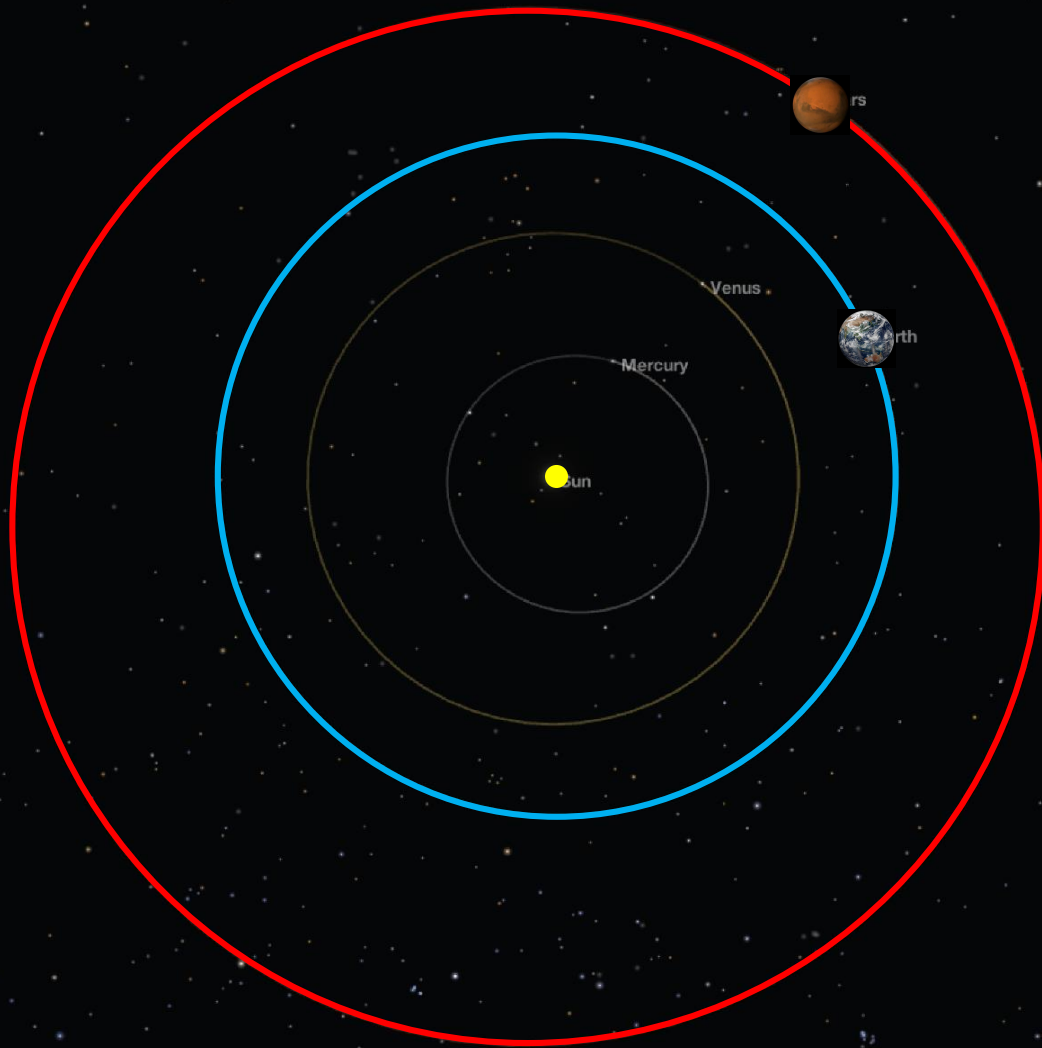


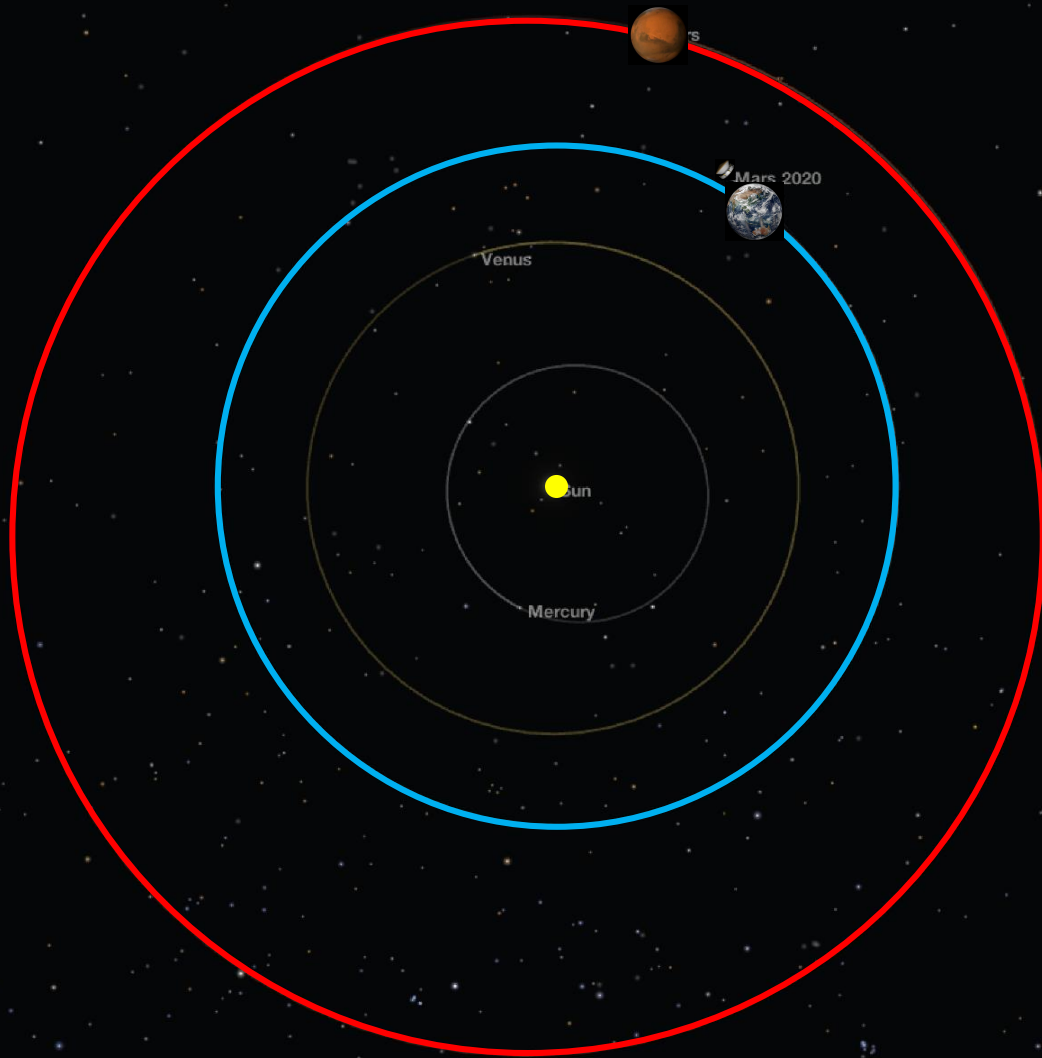
MARS
2020
PERSEVERANCE

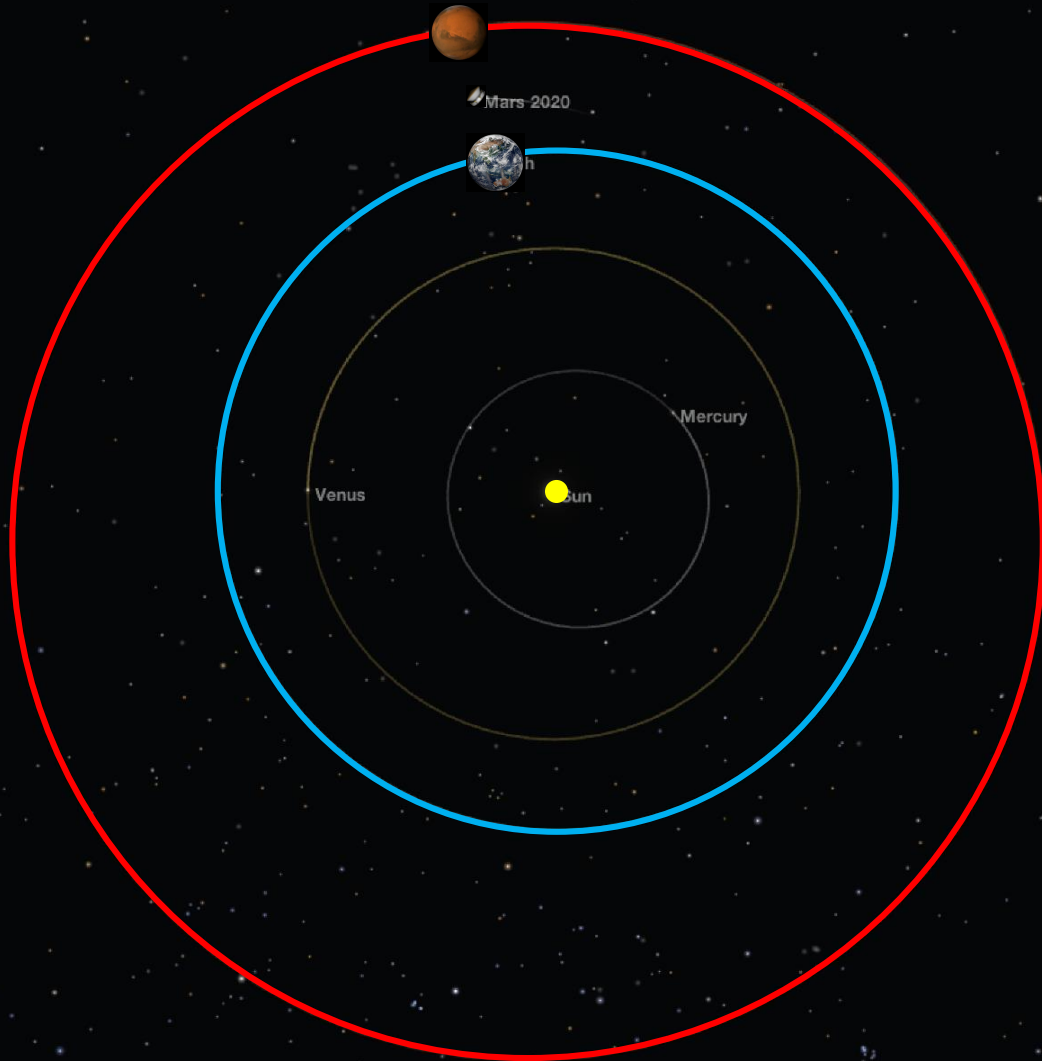
Launched July 30, 2020

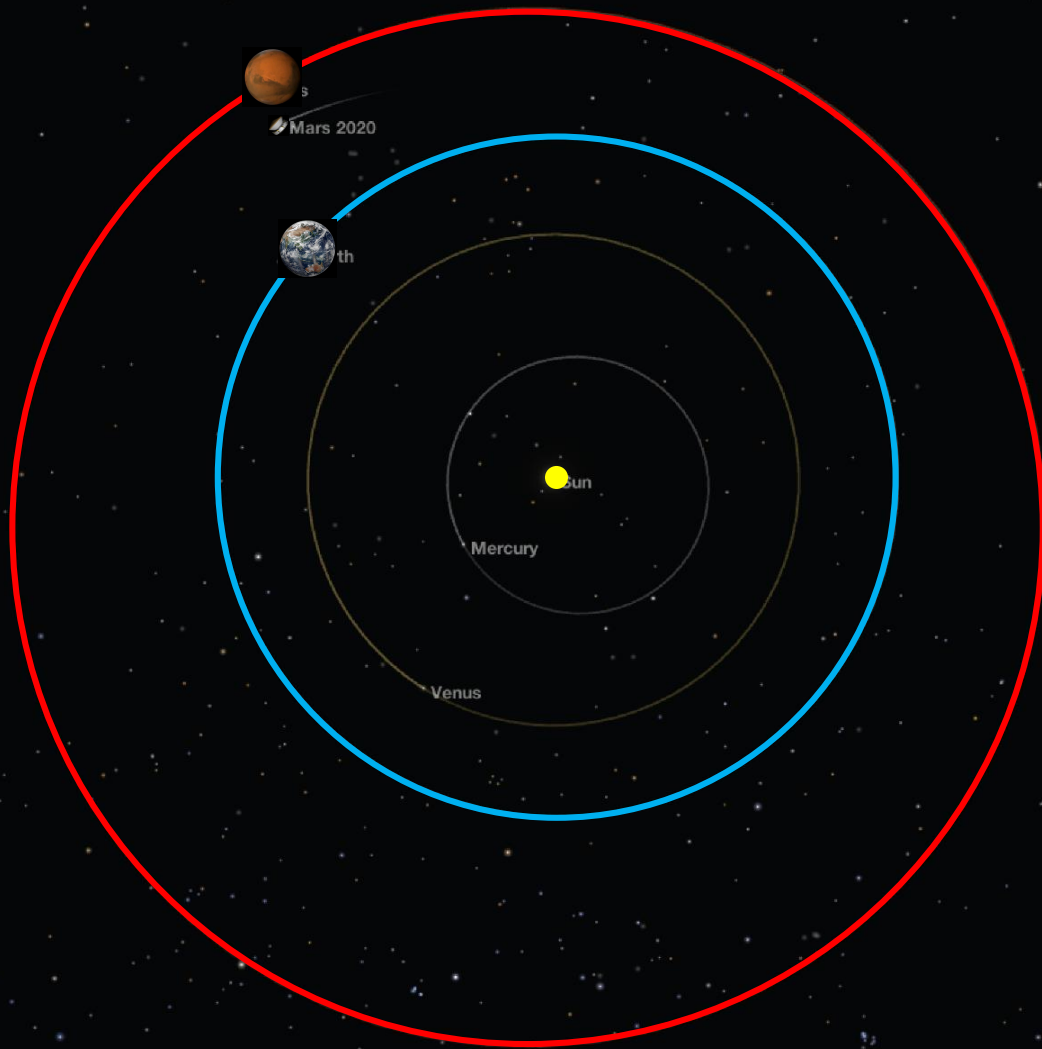


NASA









Mars 2020

Earth

Sun

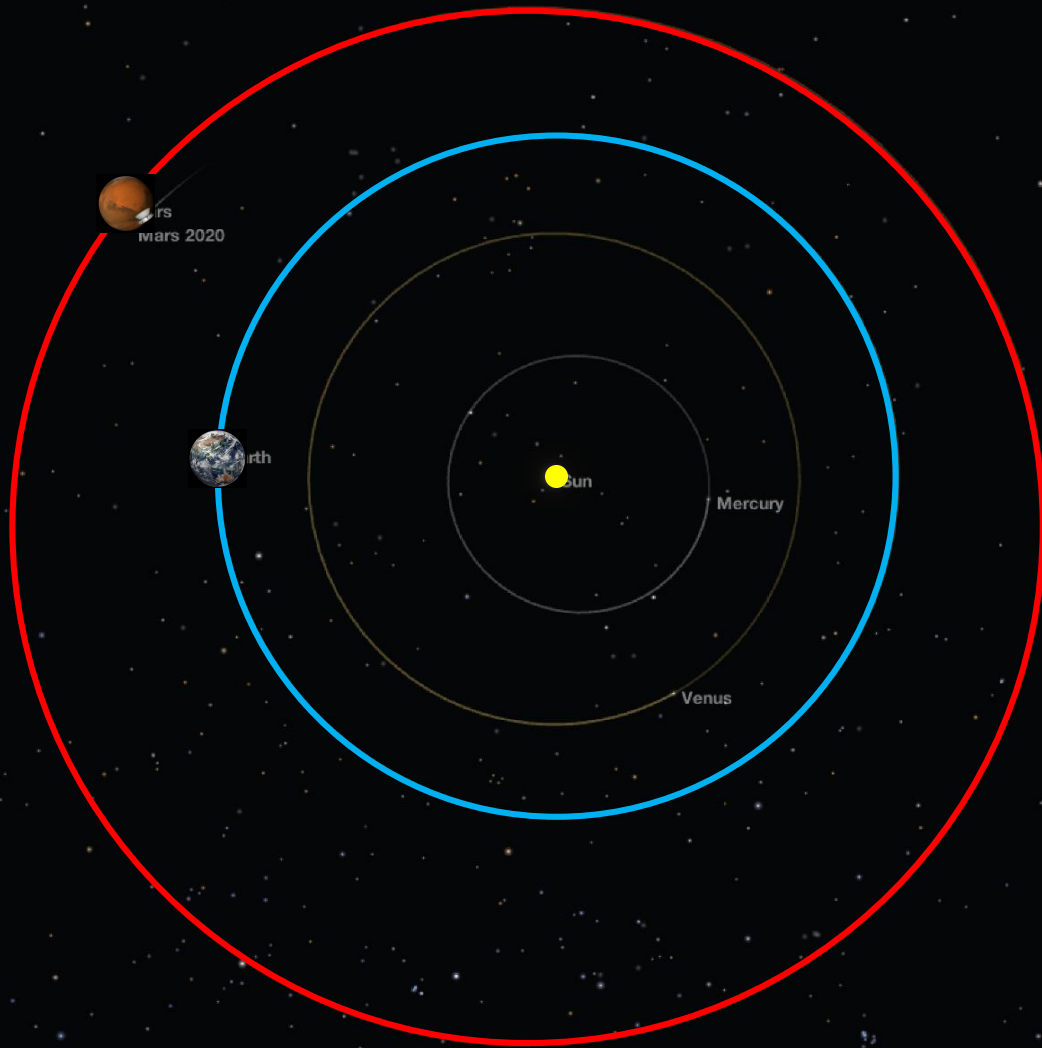
Mercury

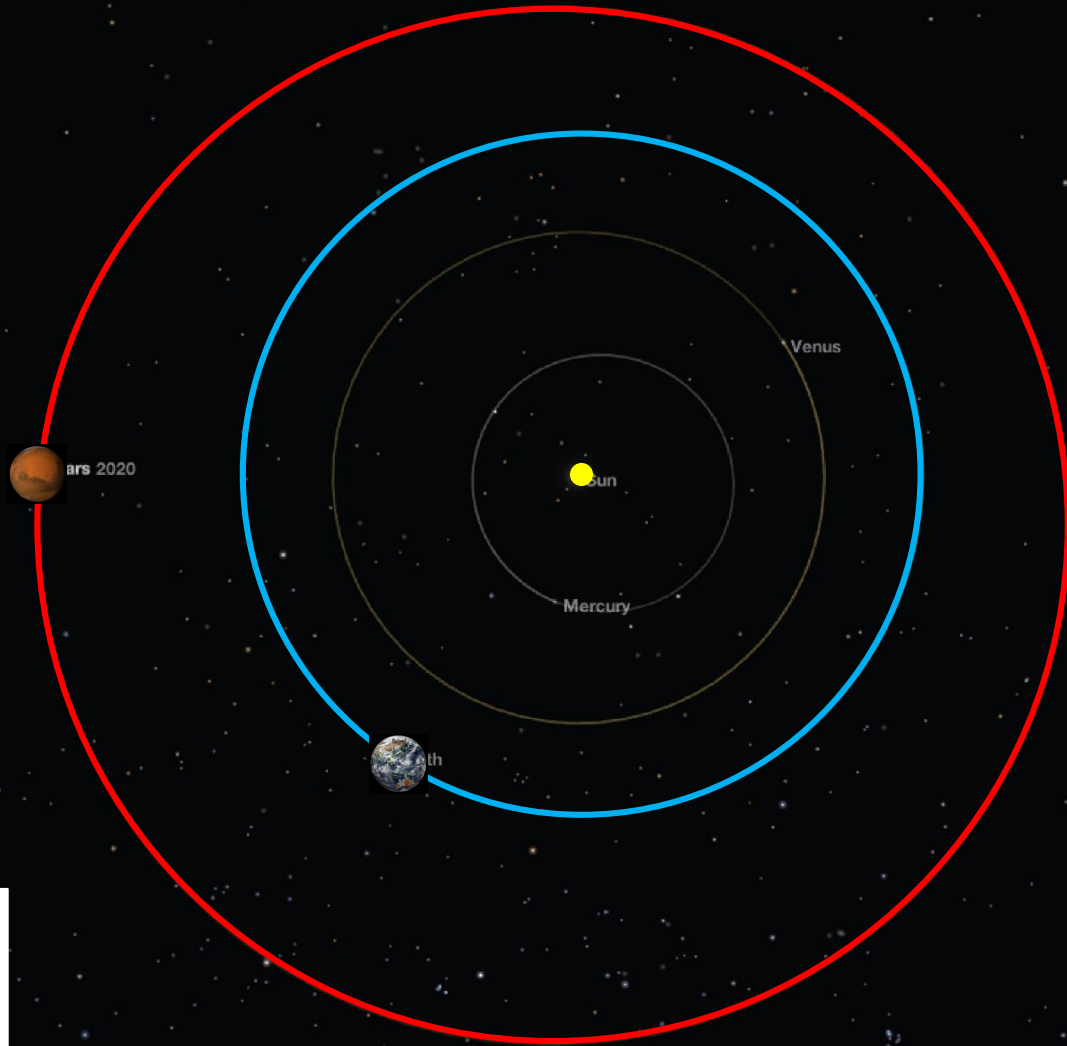
Venus



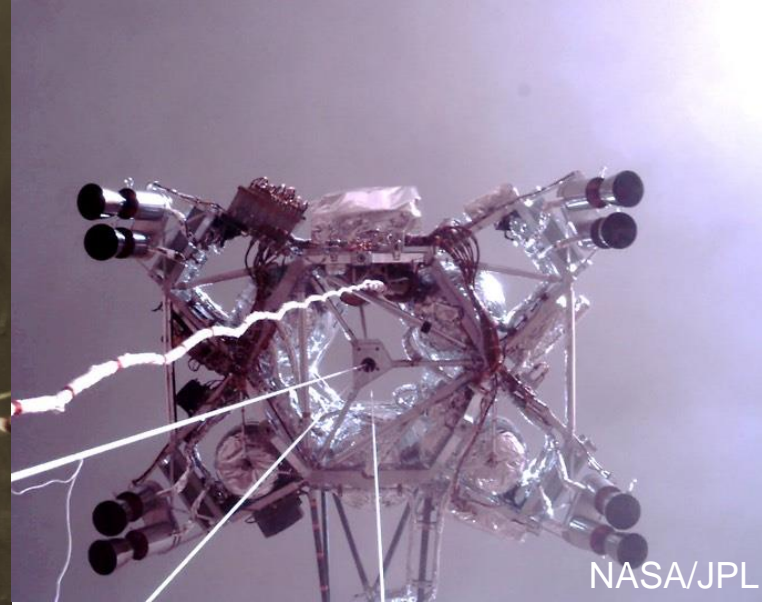
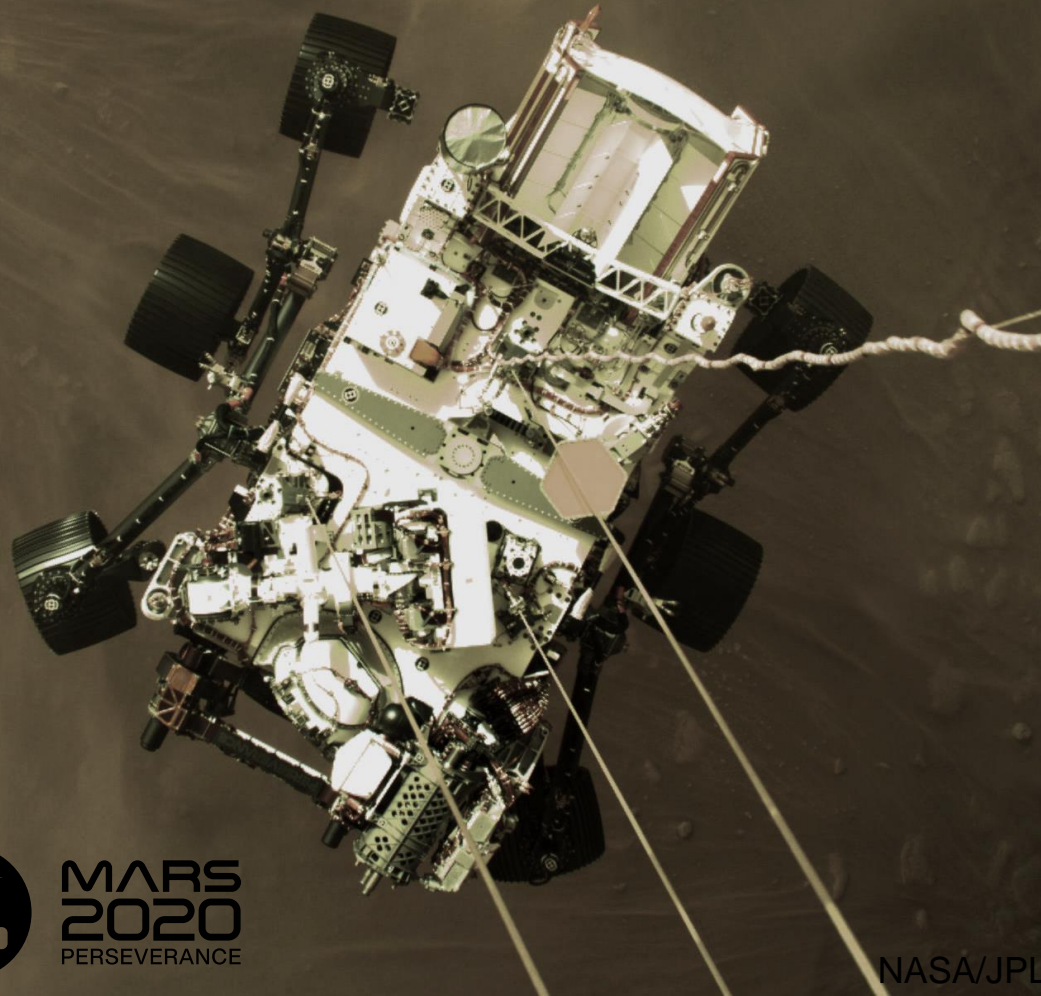
**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA





Landfall on Mars



NASA/JPL



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

URS CL#20-4730

NASA/JPL/University of Arizona

Parachute & Back Shell



Descent Stage

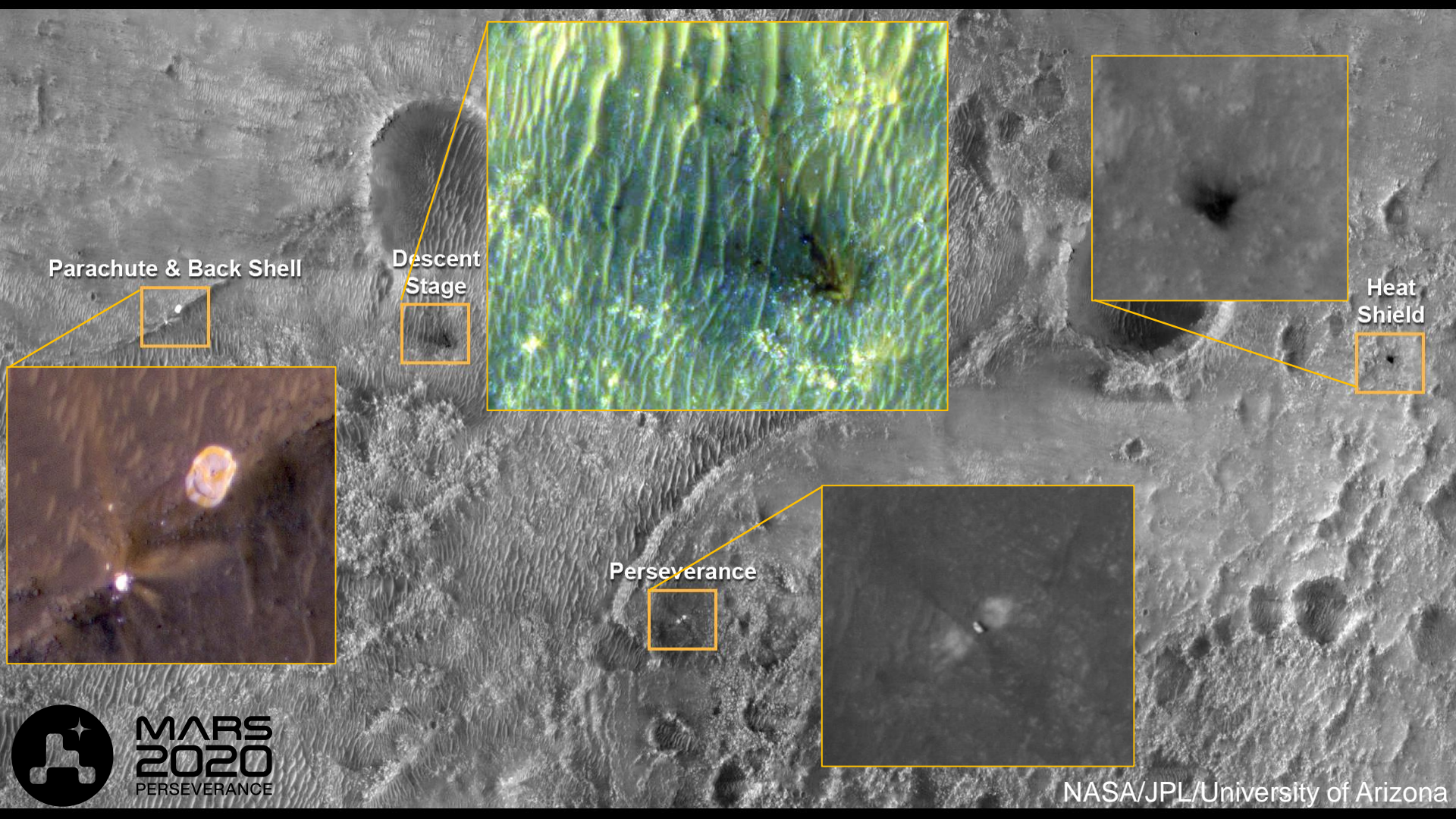


Heat Shield



Perseverance



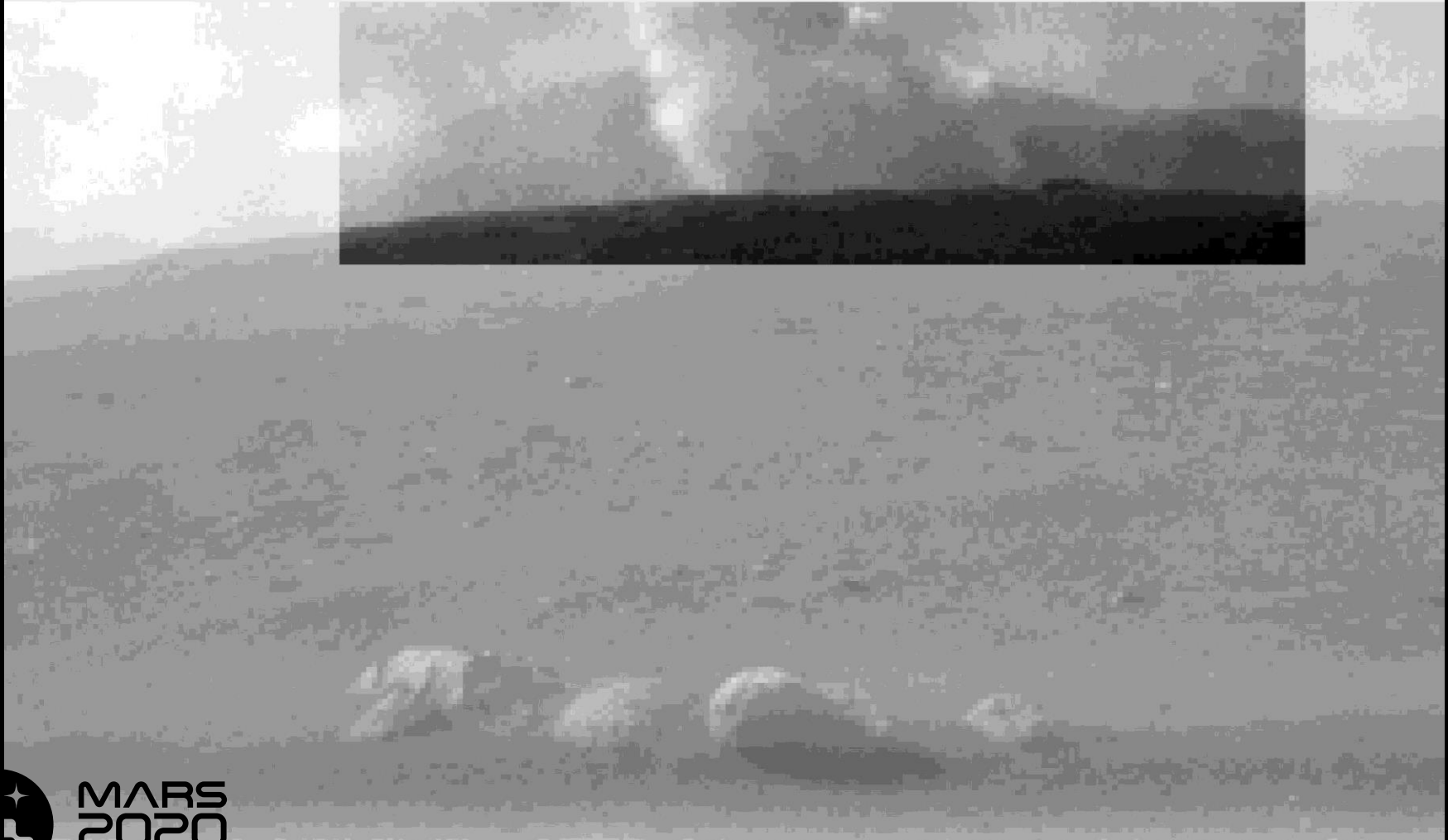


Parachute & Back Shell

Descent Stage

Perseverance

Heat Shield



MARS
2020
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL

Welcome to Jezero Crater



Octavia E. Butler Landing

NASA/JPL



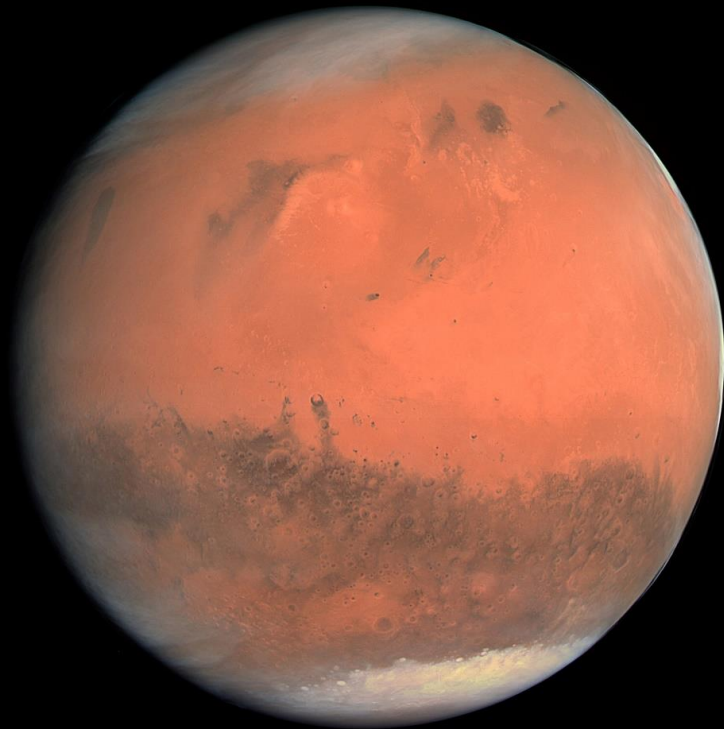
**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

Hubble

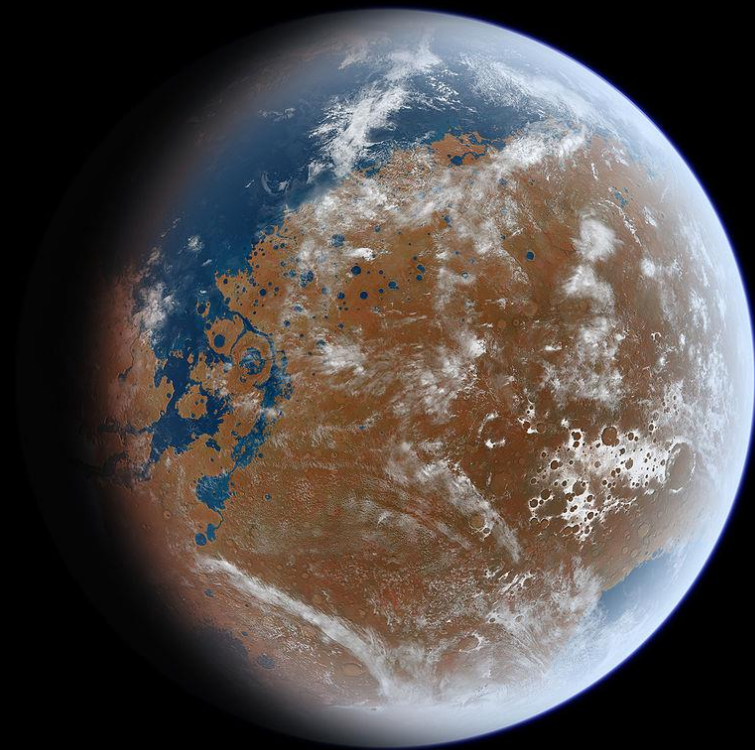
VIIRS

NASA

Ancient Mars: Surface Liquid Water



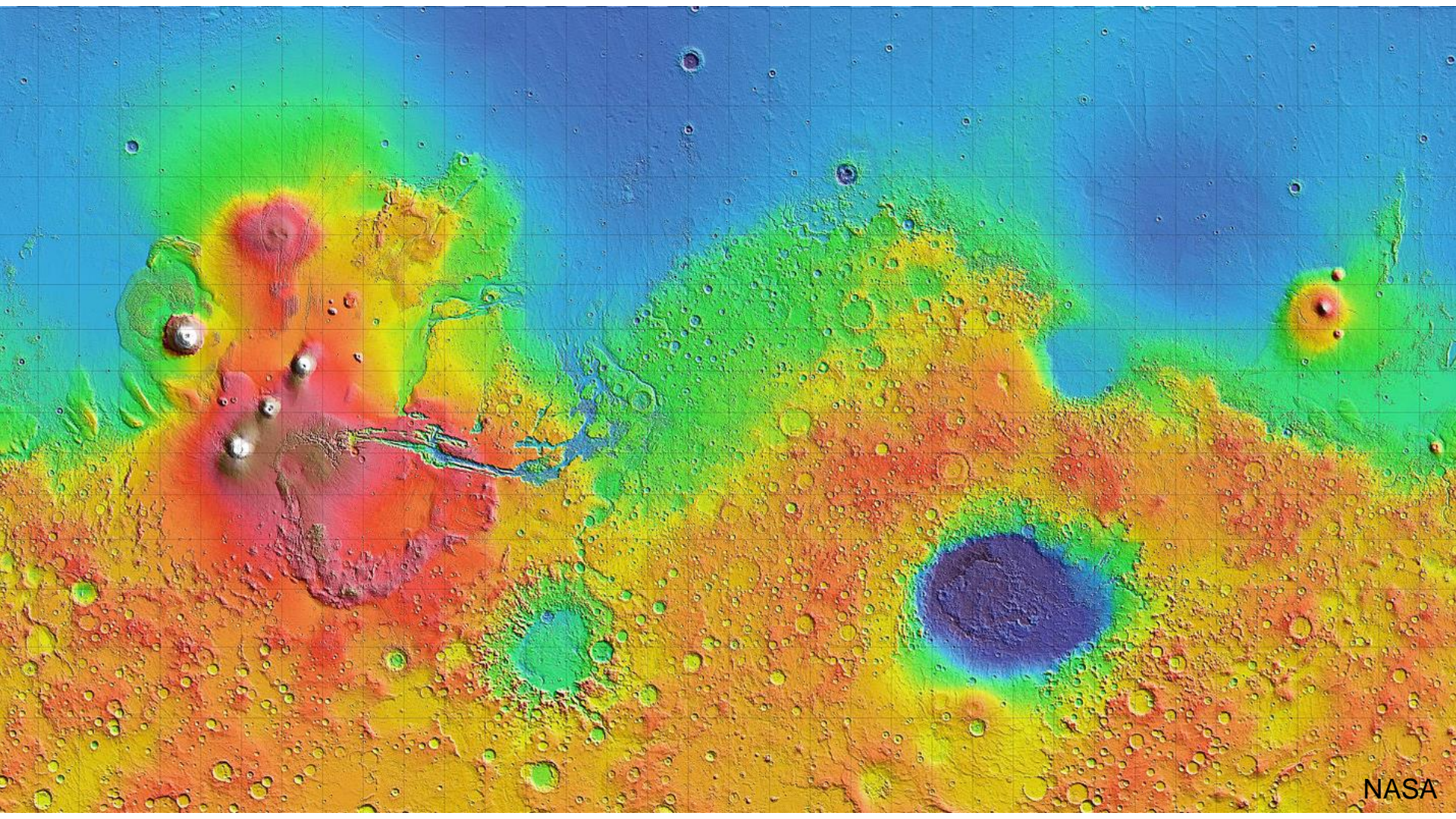
Modern Mars

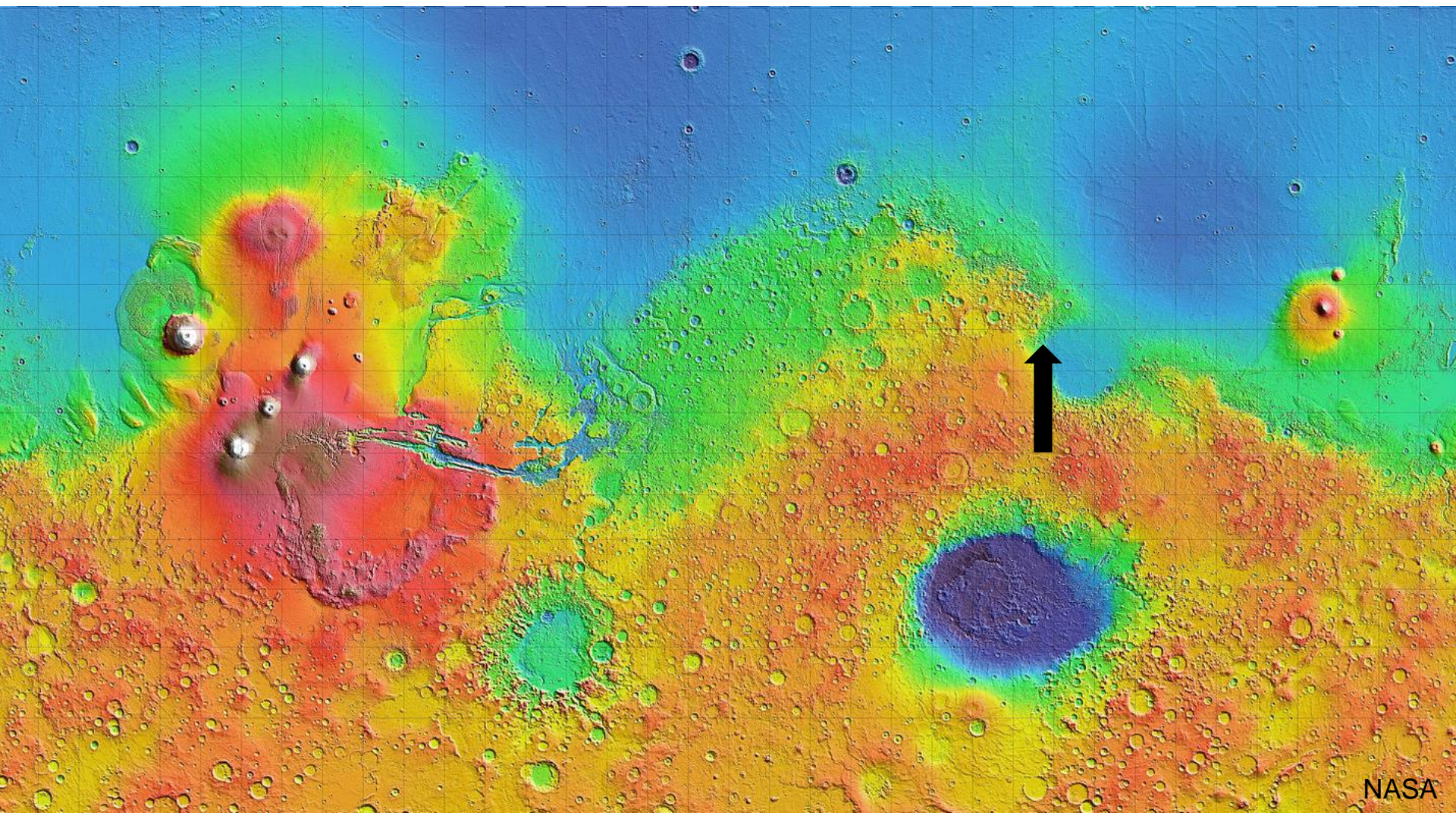


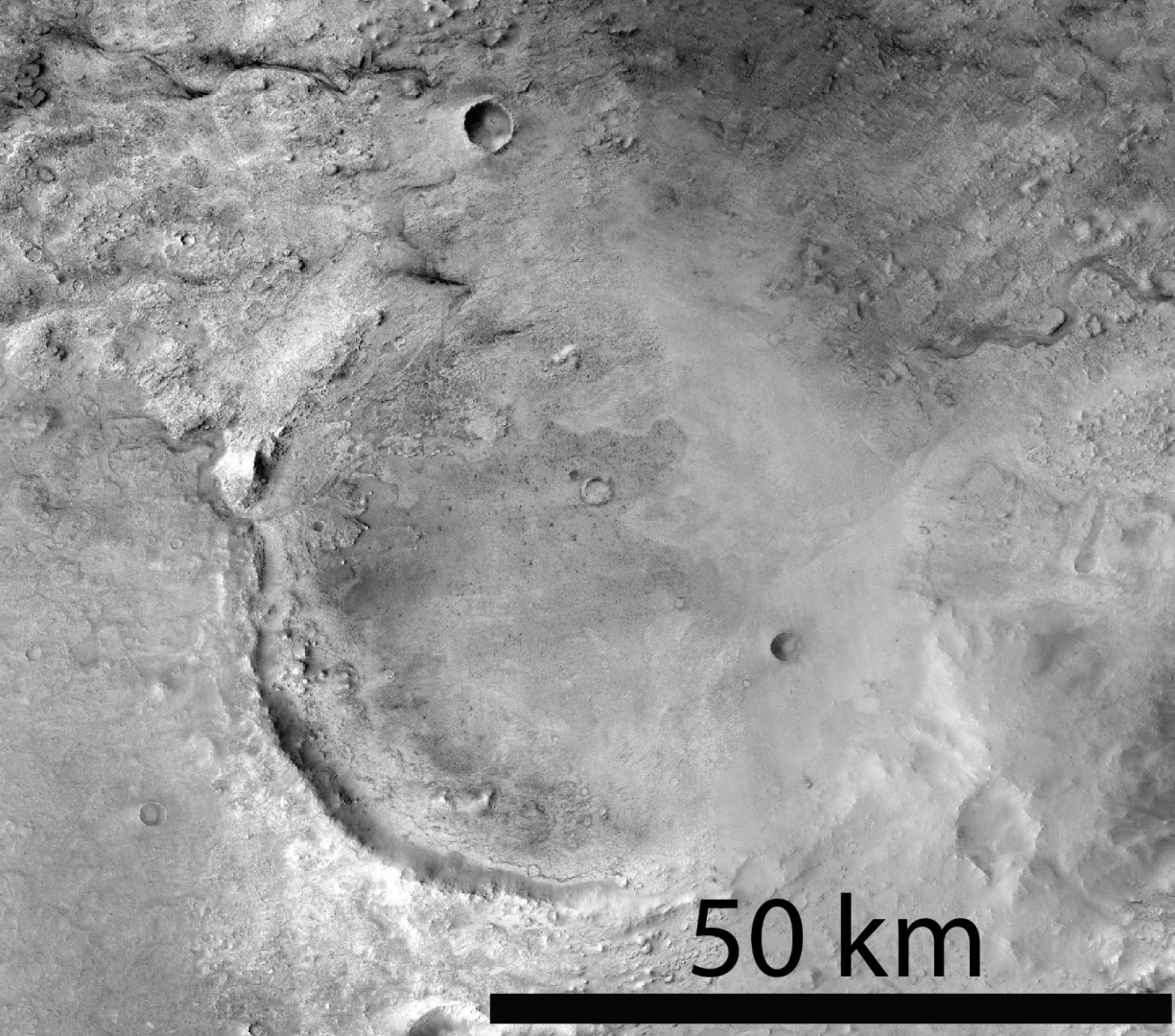
Mars ~ 3.6 billion years ago (?)



NASA Scientific Visualization Studio



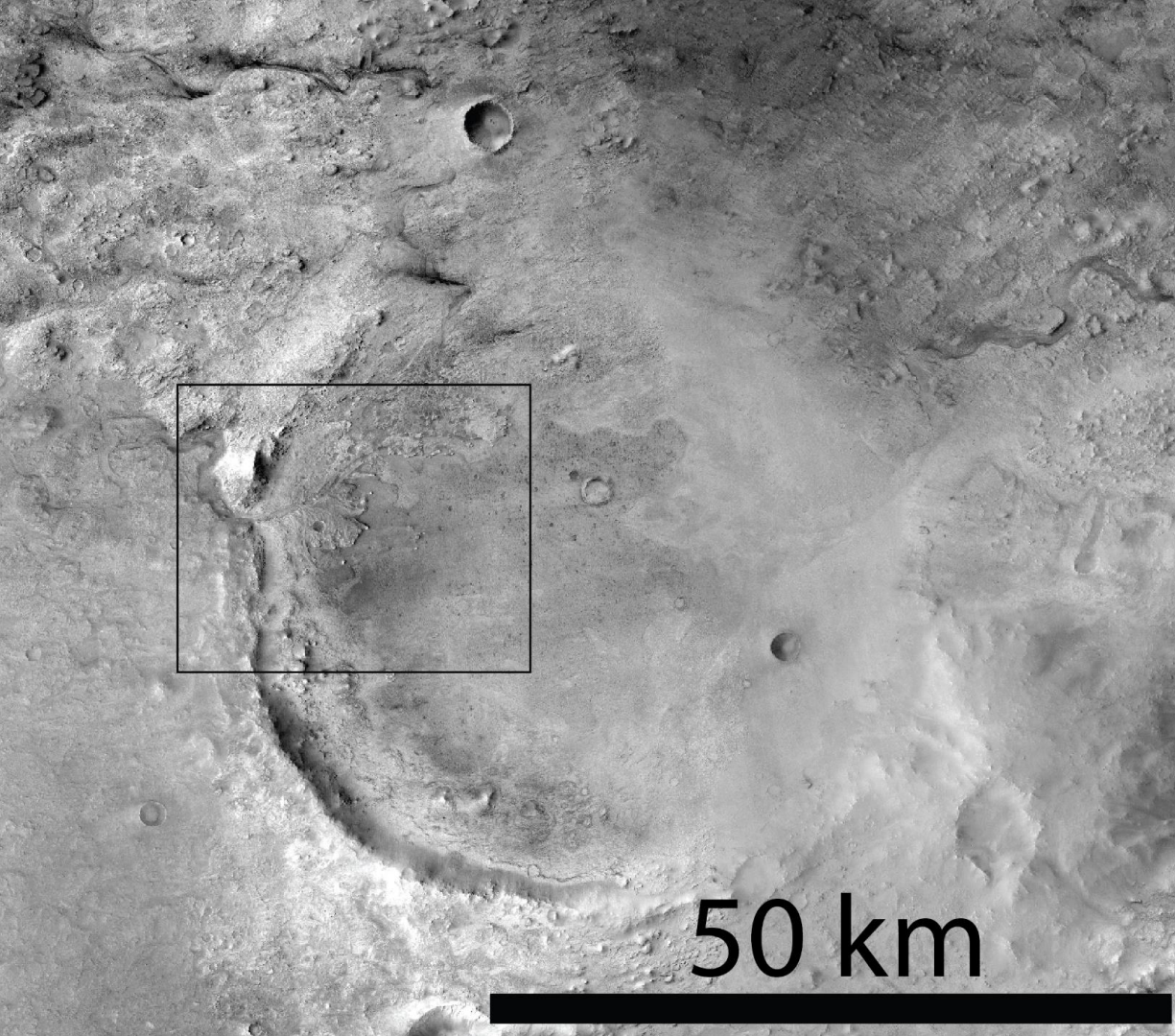




Jezero crater, a former
martian lake

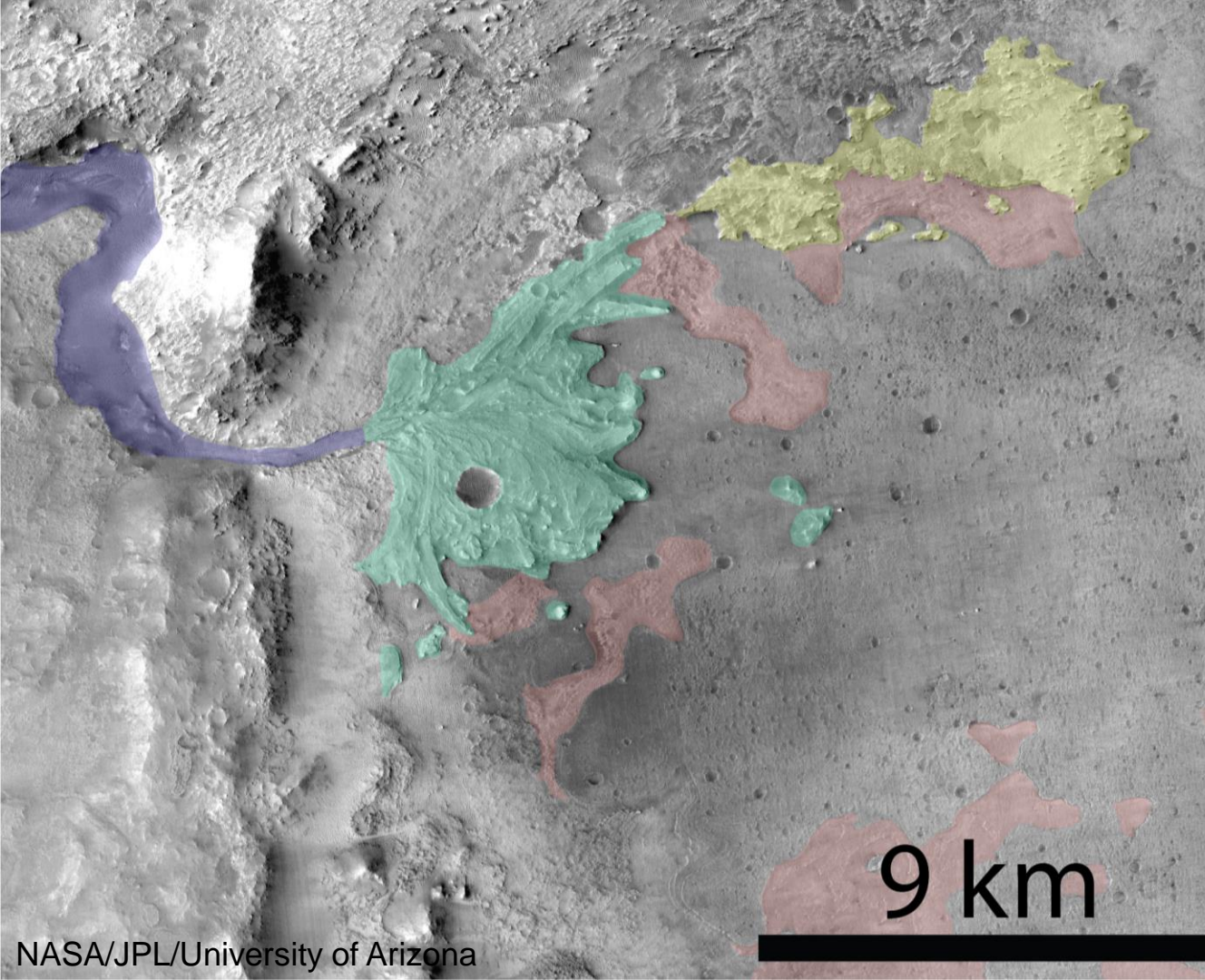
50 km

CTX Mosaic by The Murray Lab, Caltech
Dickson et al. (2019), 49th LPSC



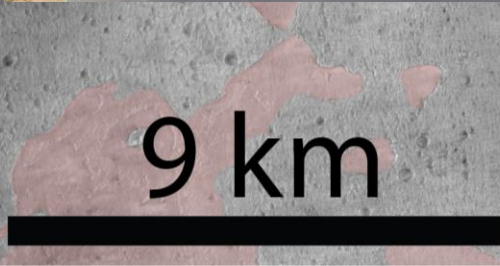
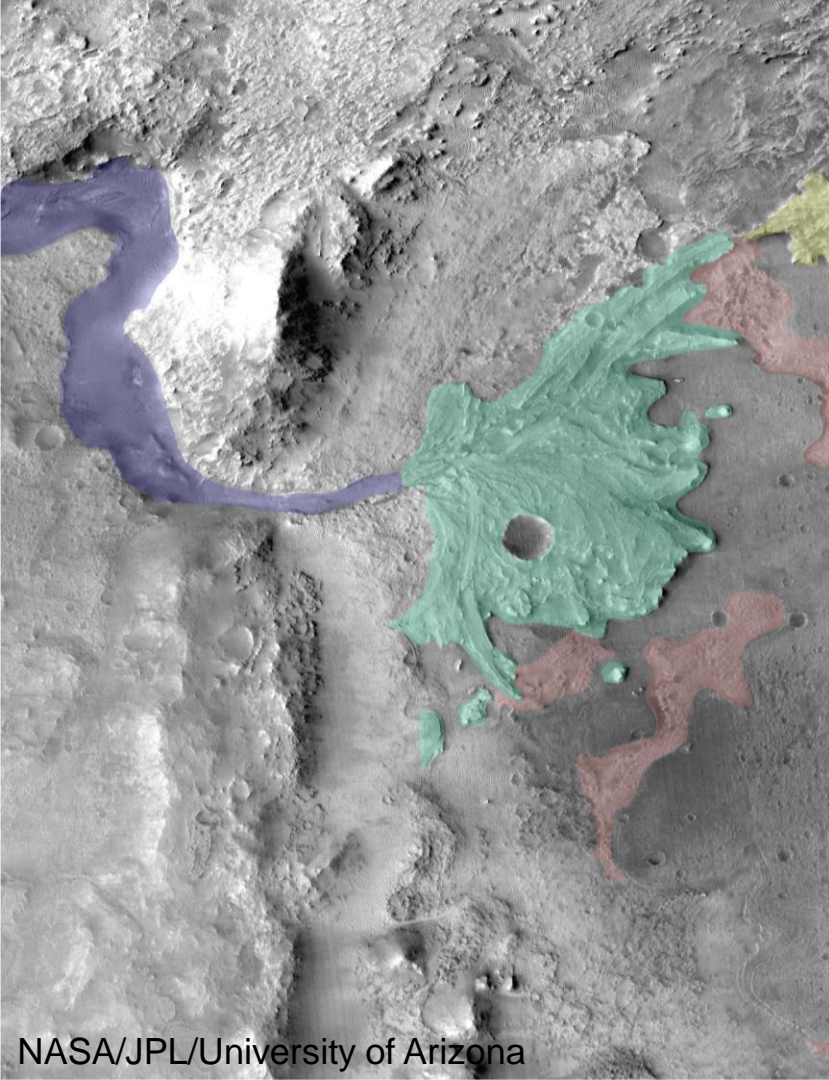
Jezero crater, a former
martian lake

CTX Mosaic by The Murray Lab, Caltech
Dickson et al. (2019), 49th LPSC



- Western delta
- Northern delta

9 km



National Geographic

NASA/JPL/University of Arizona

Units mapped by Goudge et al.
(2015), *JGR: Planets*



Modern Stromatolites: Shark Bay



Ancient Stromatolites: Pilbara Region, Western Australia

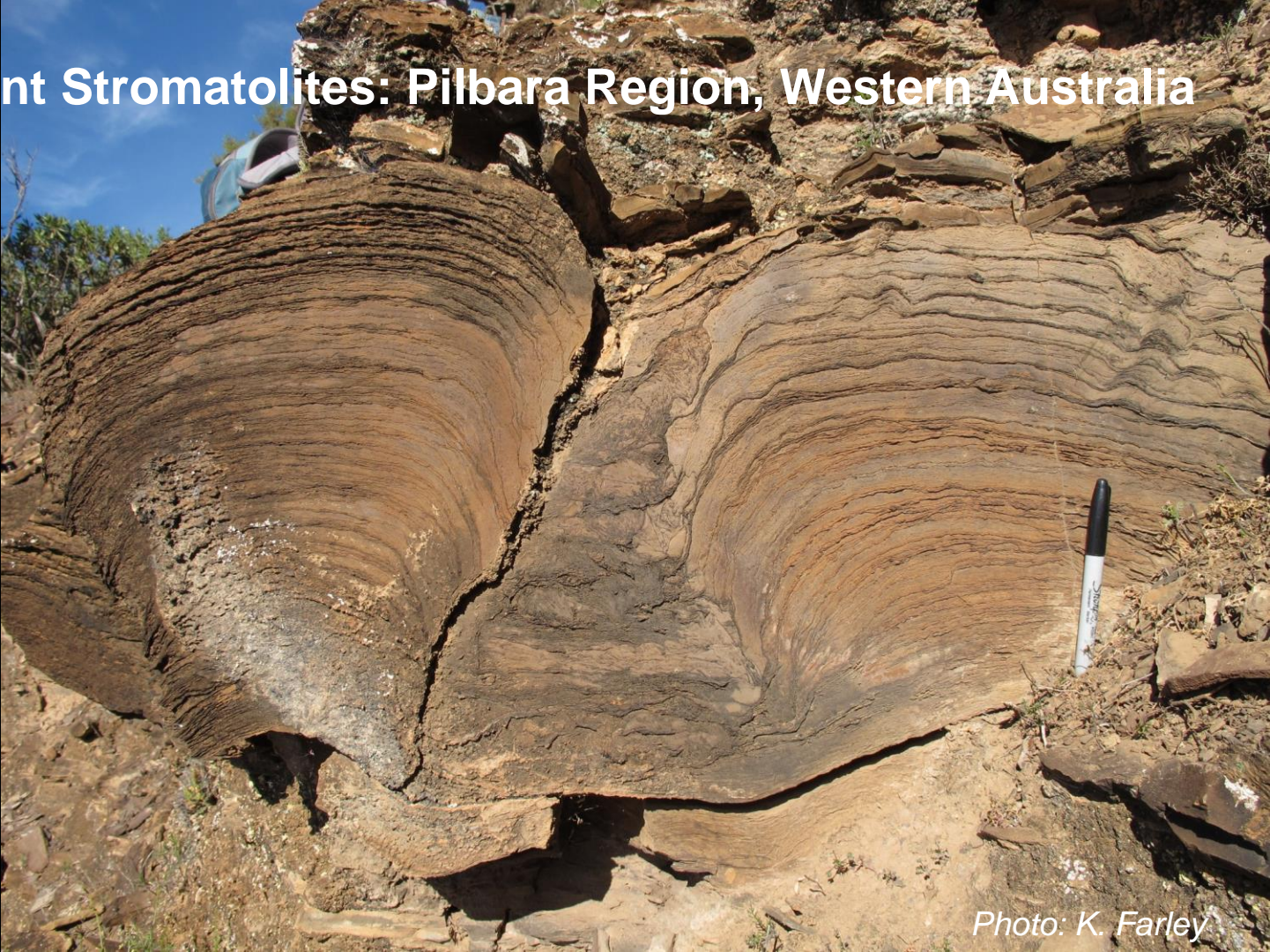
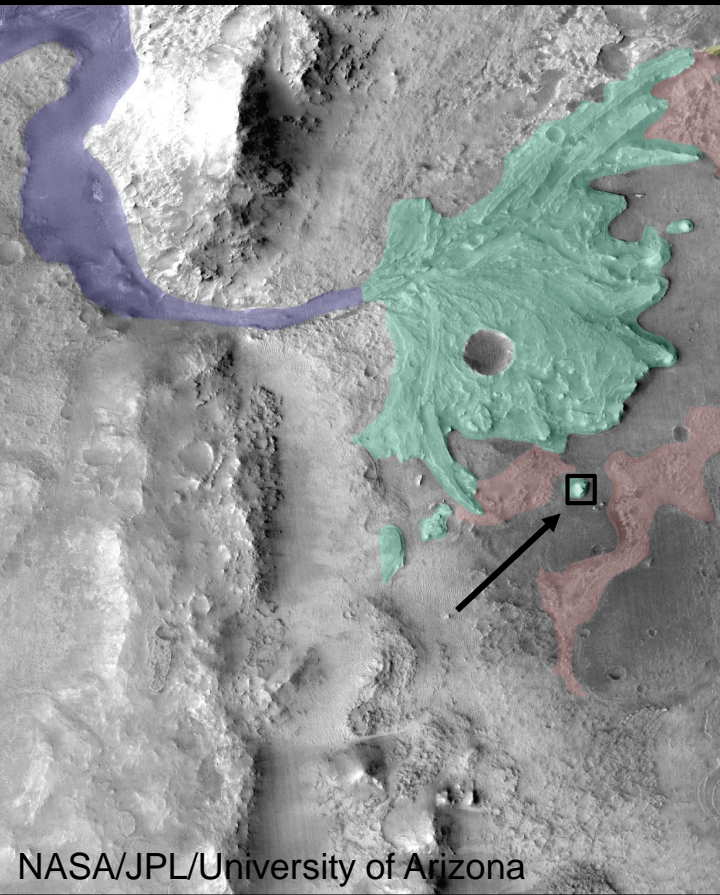


Photo: K. Farley

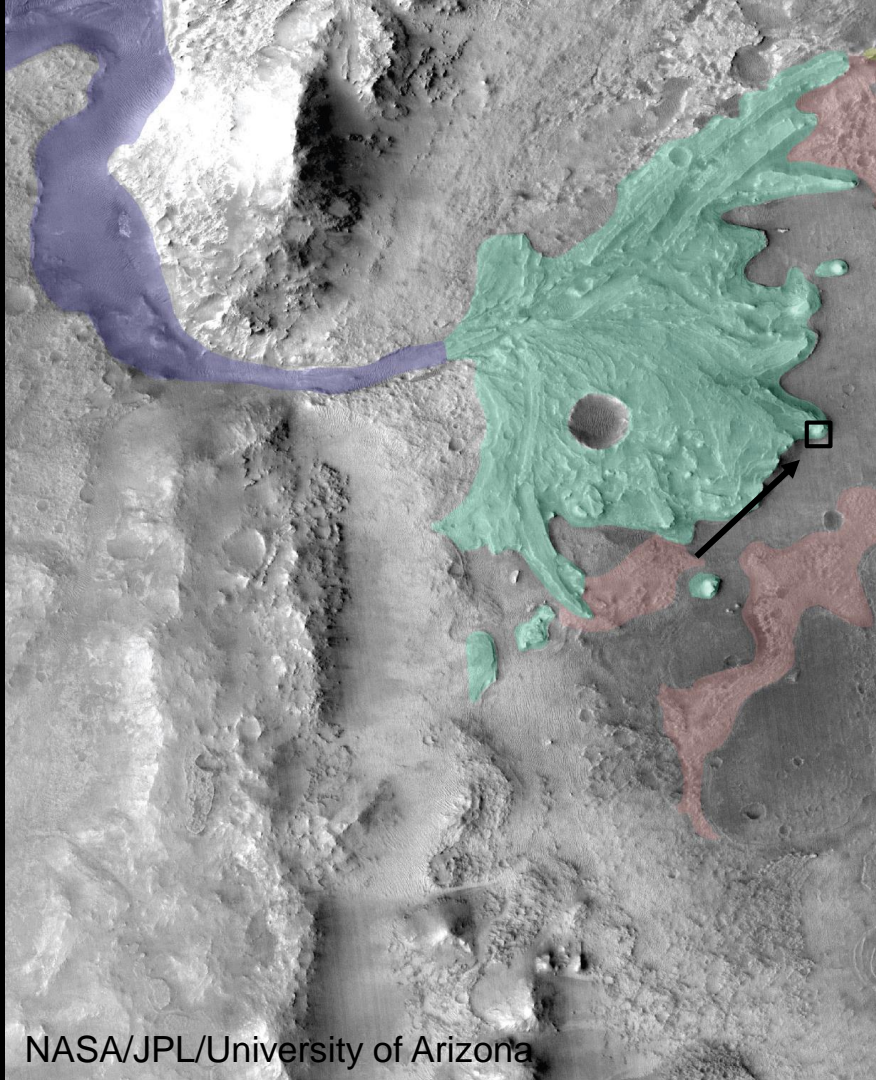
River Deltas Are Habitable Environments



Analyzing the delta from the ground



Seeing
from
afar



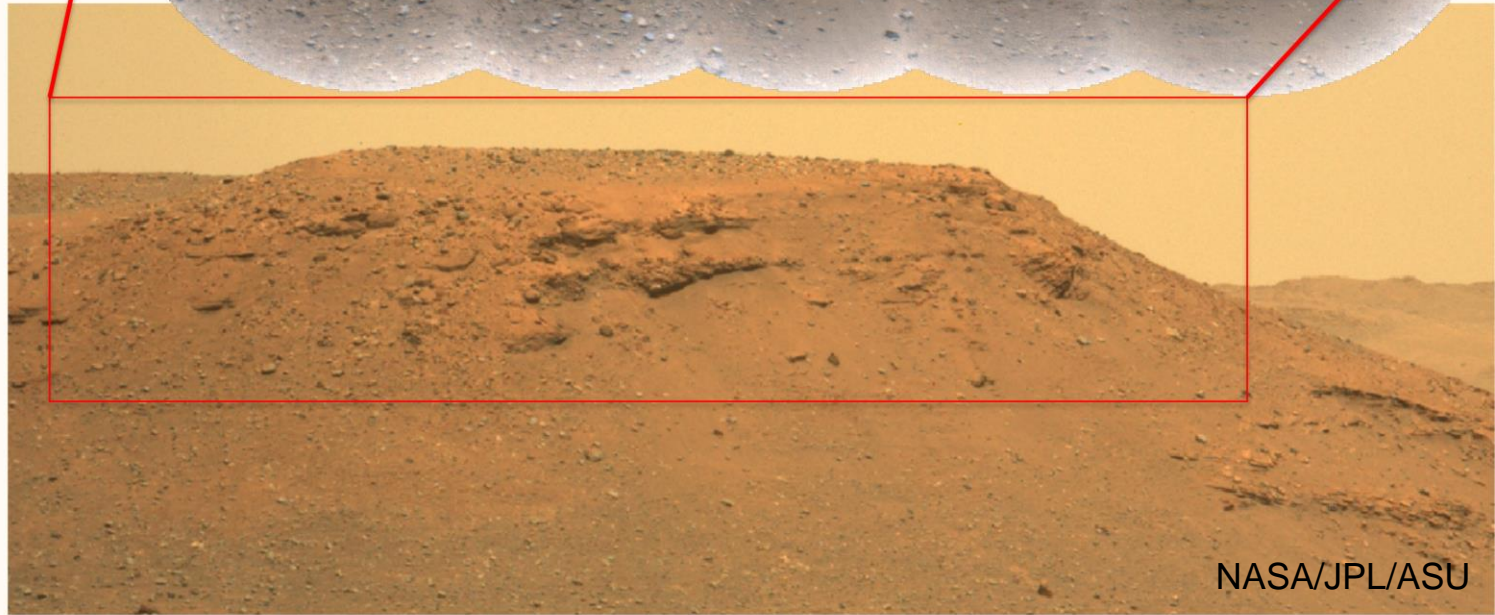
NASA/JPL/University of Arizona



Map Scale 5
0 200m 400m

Beautiful bedrock exposures

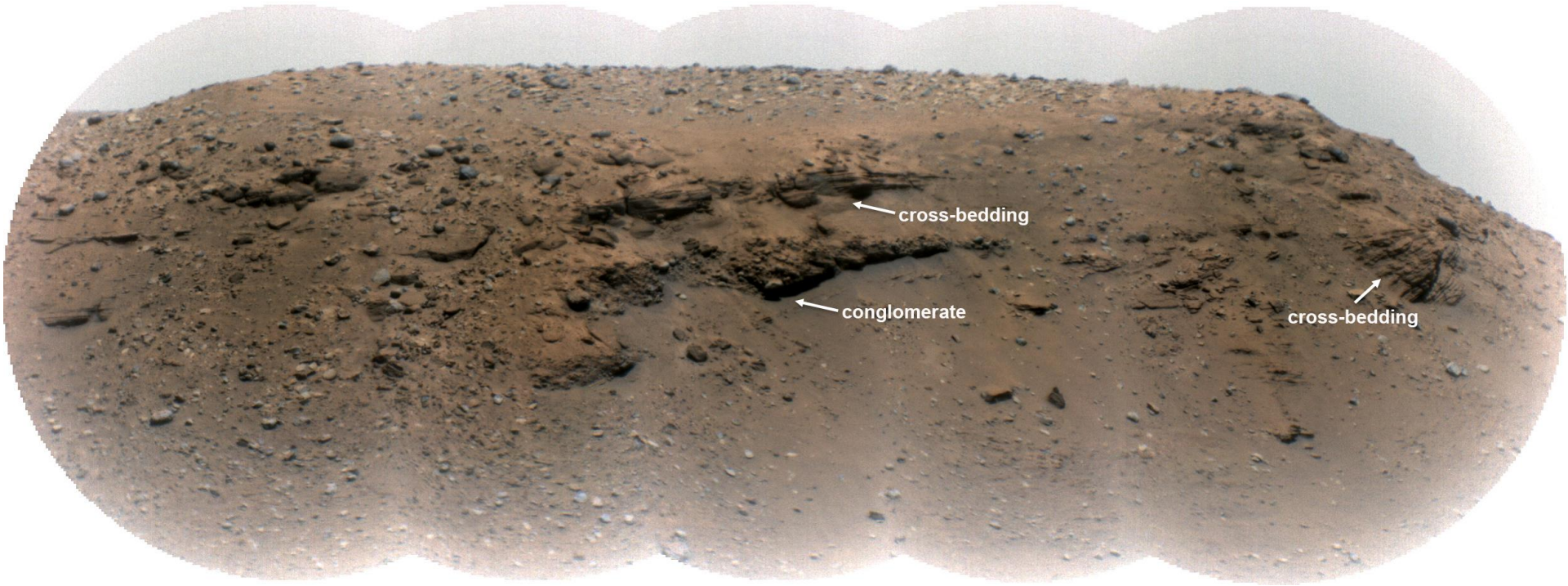
NASA/JPL/LANL/CNES/IRAP

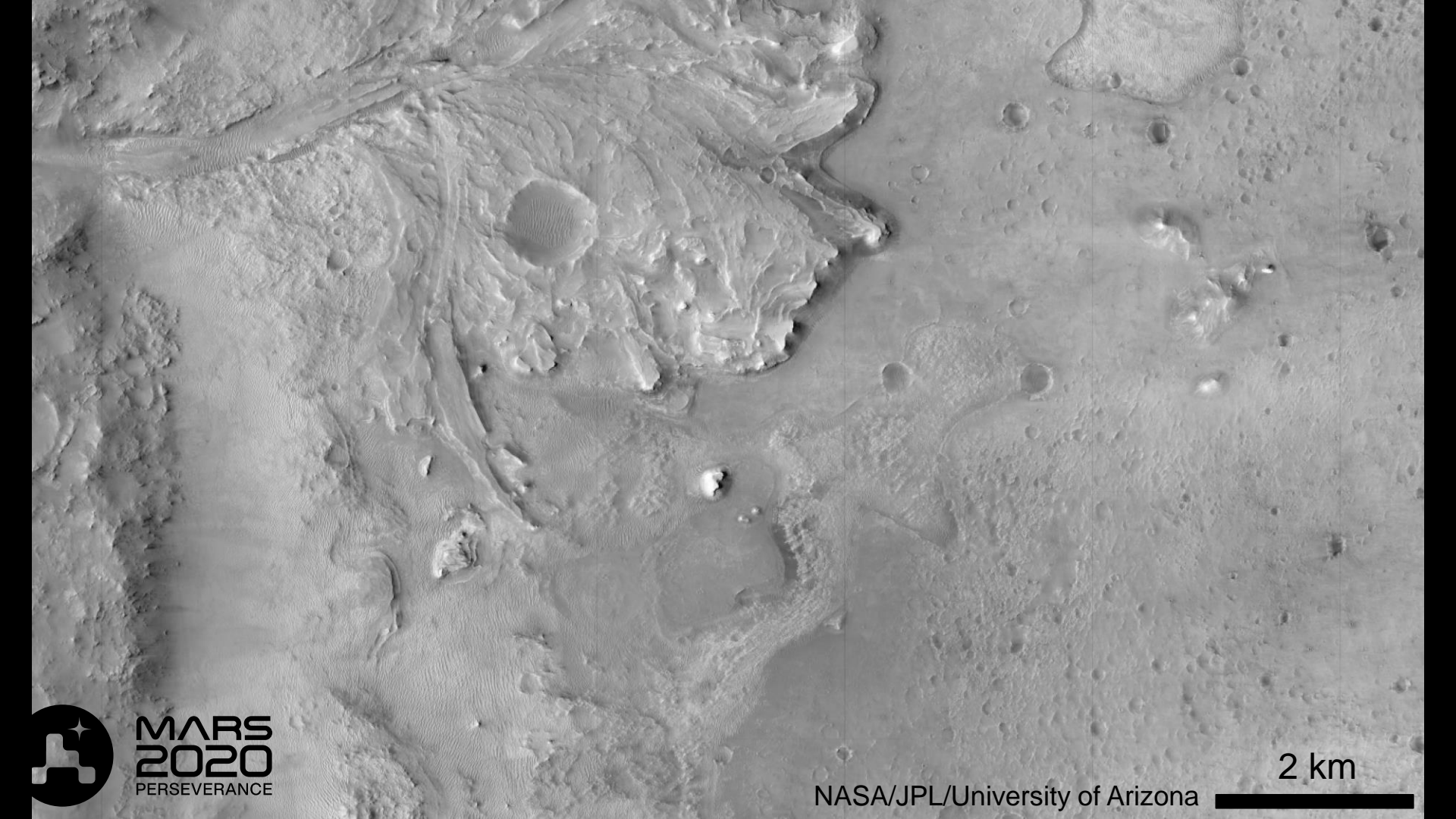


Characterizing past environments on Mars from afar



Characterizing past environments on Mars from afar

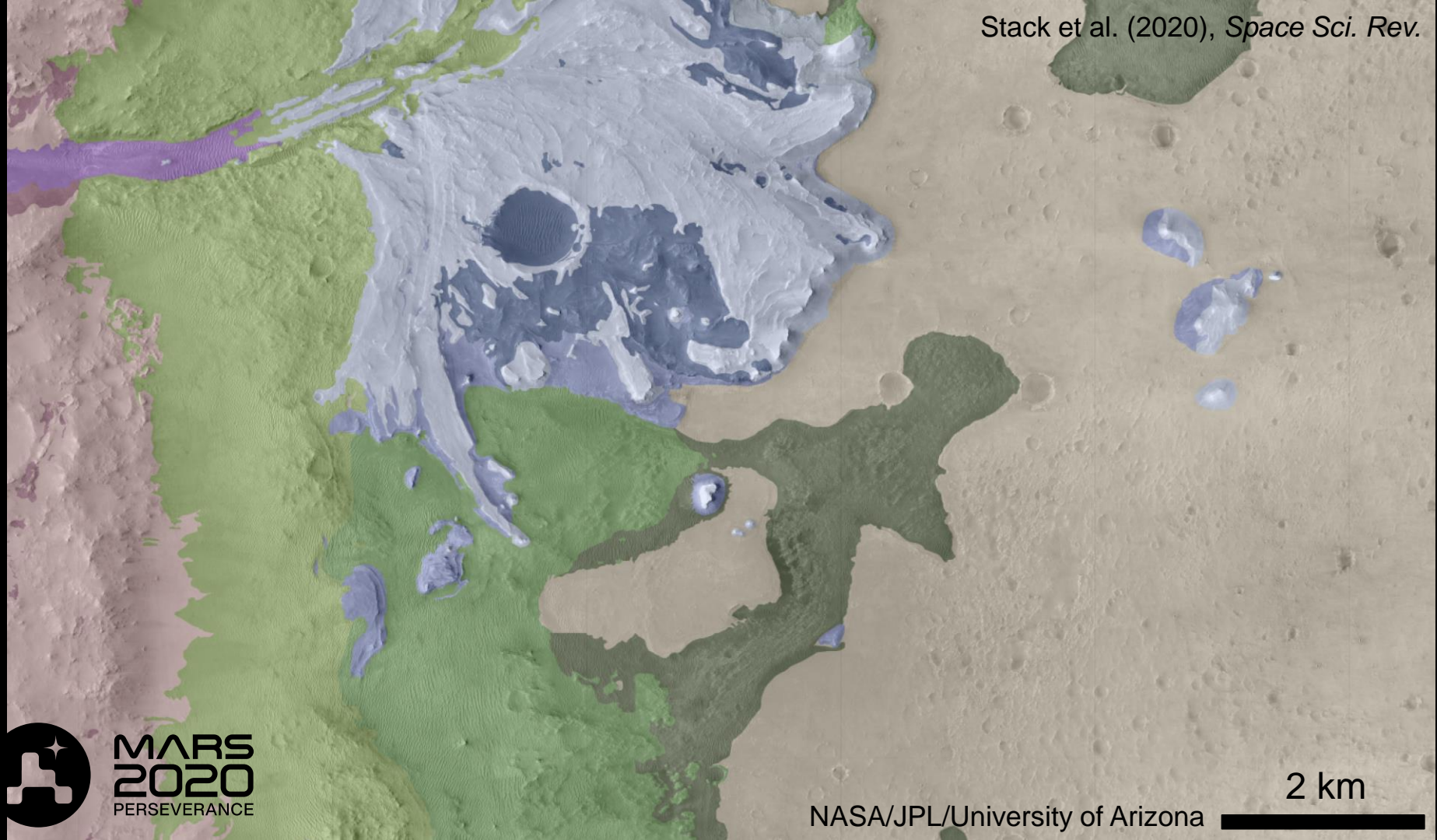




**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

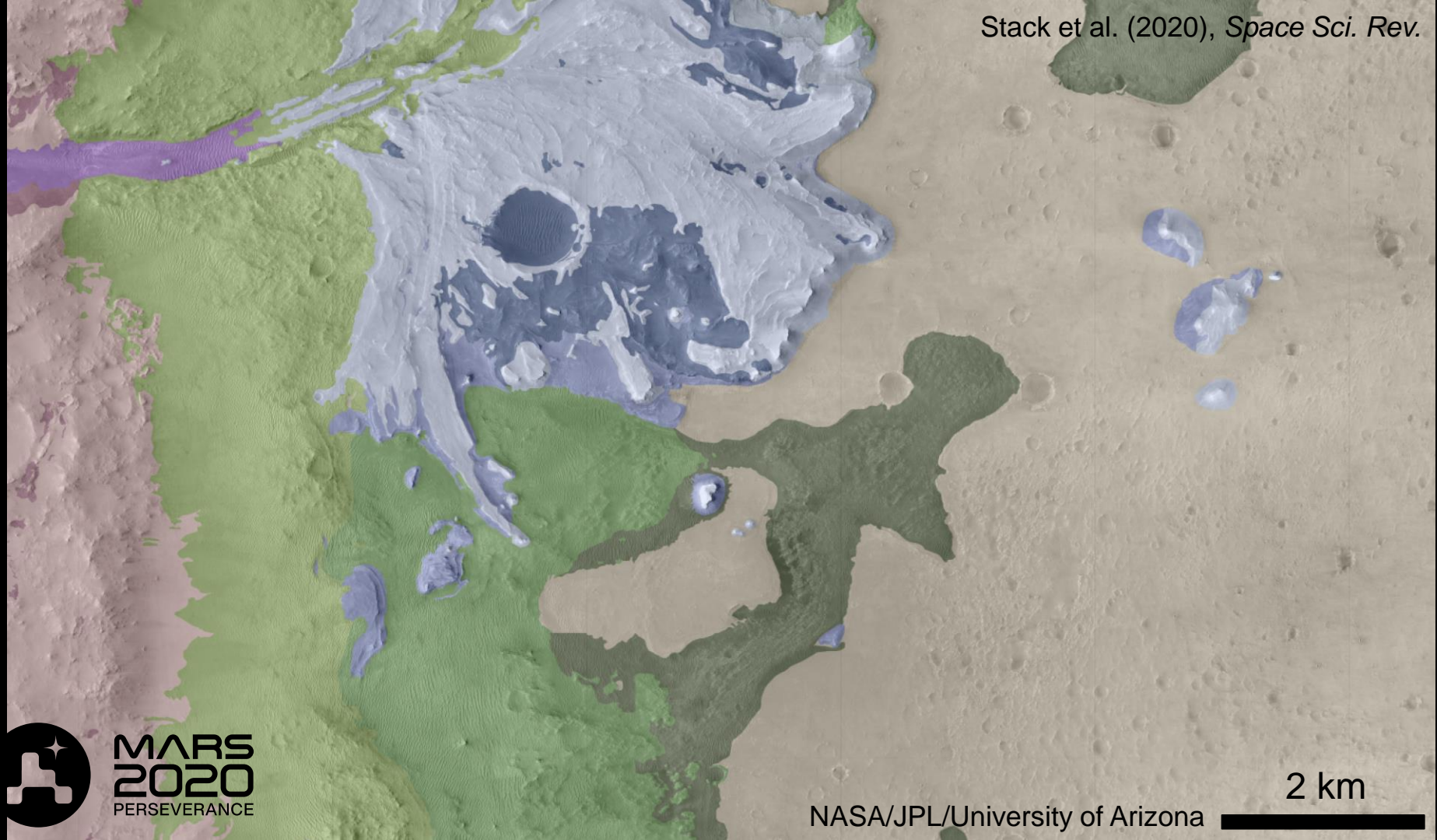
NASA/JPL/University of Arizona

2 km

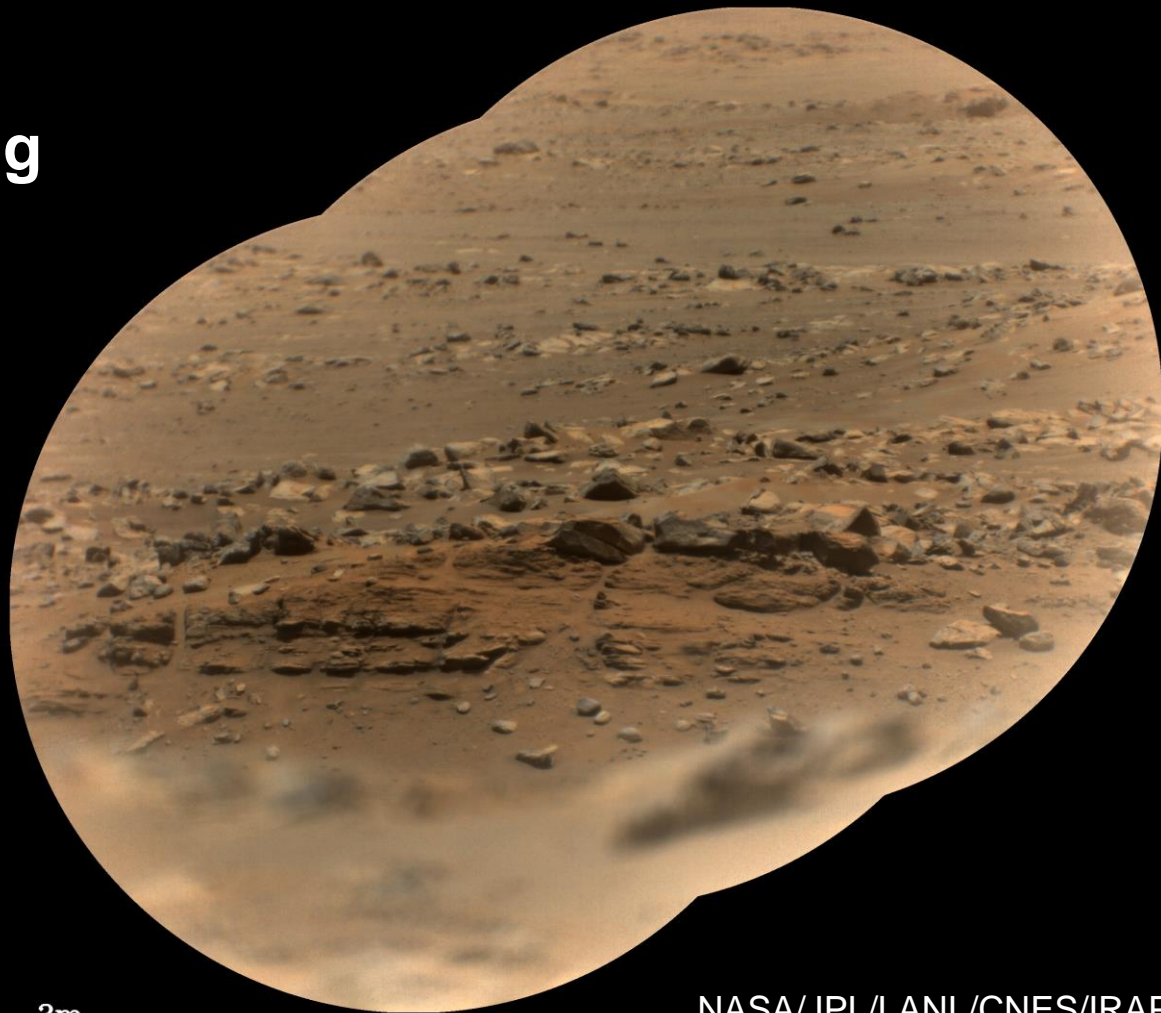


Helicopter scouting shows limited traversability in Séítah





Séítah shows geologically intriguing layered rocks

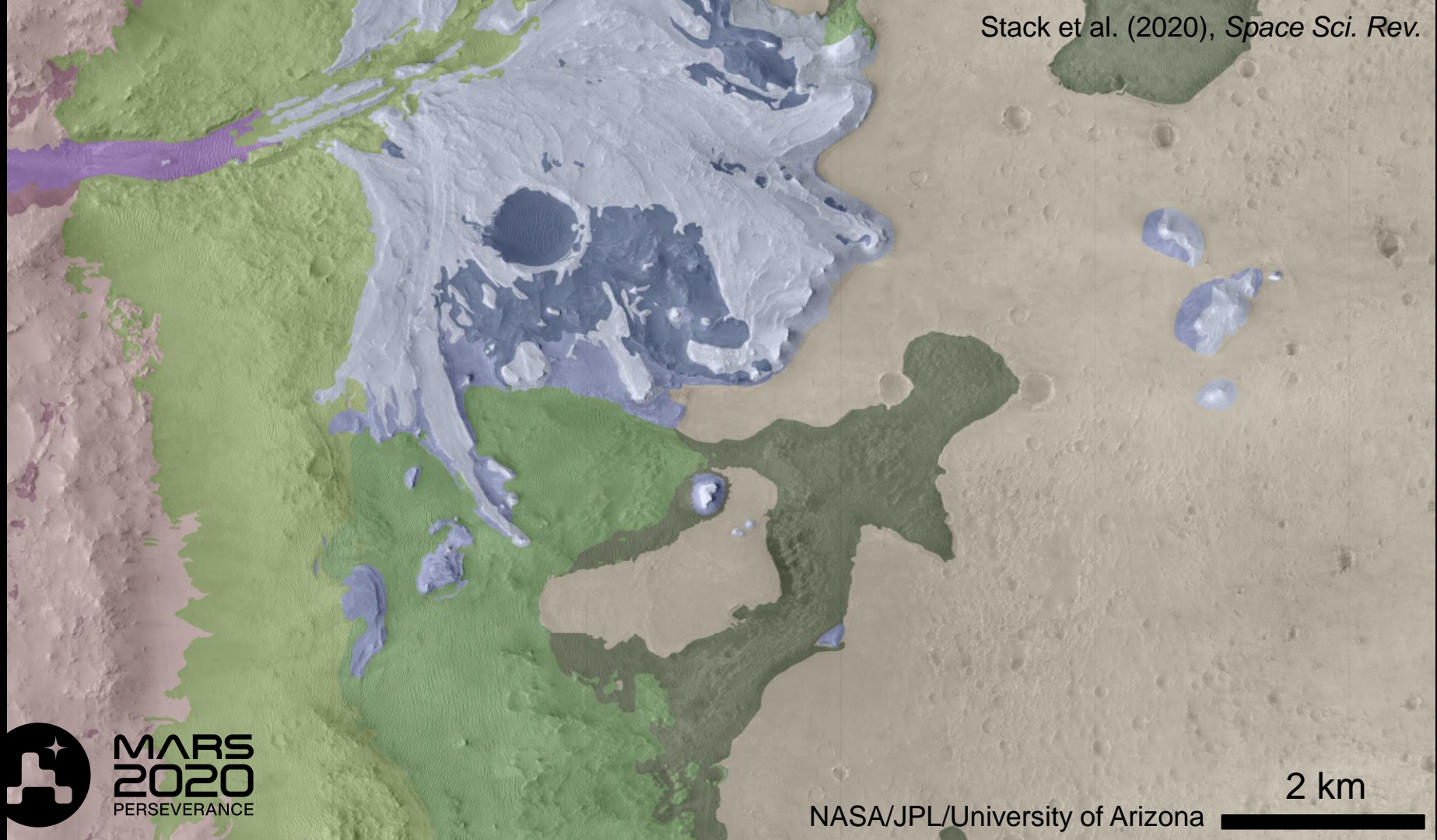


2m

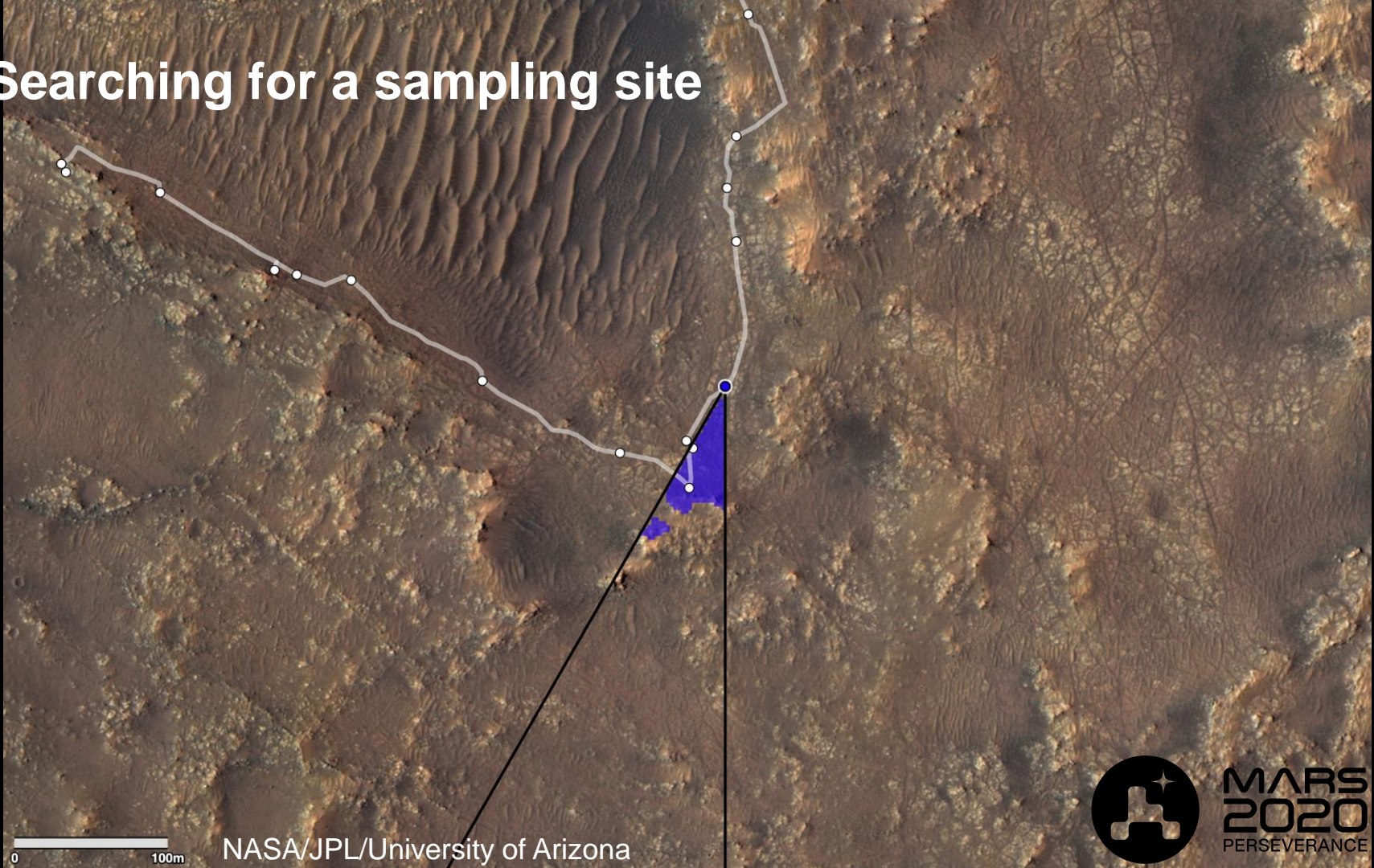


**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL/LANL/CNES/IRAP



Searching for a sampling site



0 100m

NASA/JPL/University of Arizona



MARS
2020
PERSEVERANCE

Searching for a sampling site

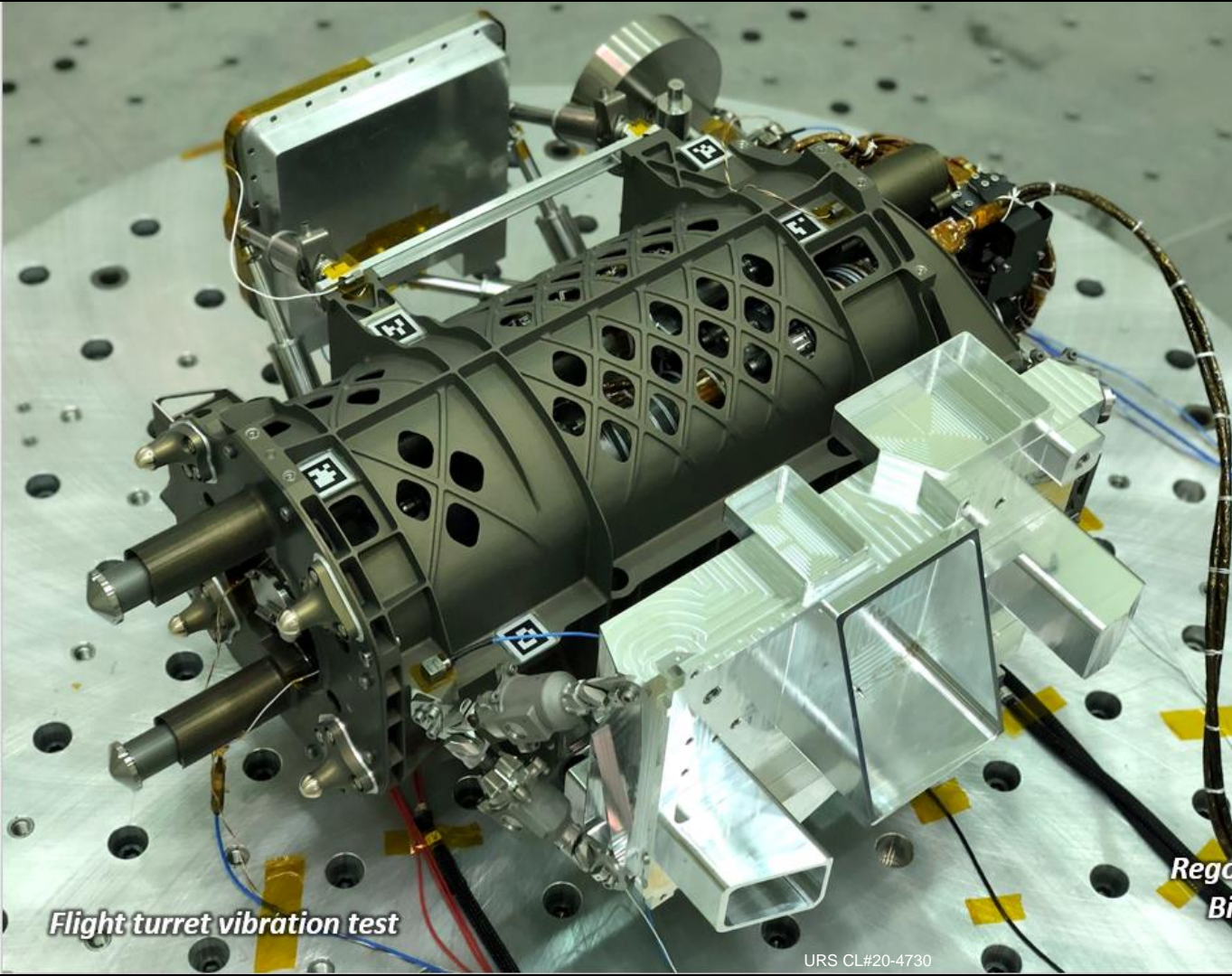


Searching for a sampling site



MARS
2020
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL/ASU



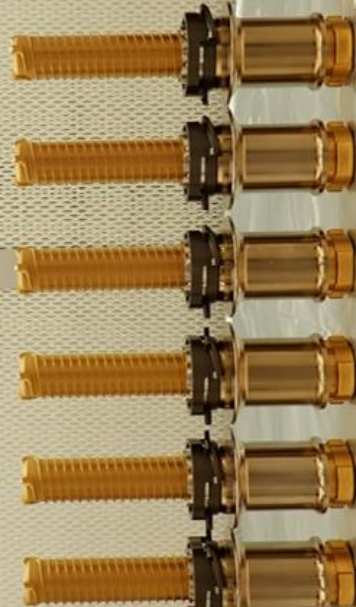
Flight turret vibration test

URS CL#20-4730

Abrading Bits



Coring Bits



Regolith Bit

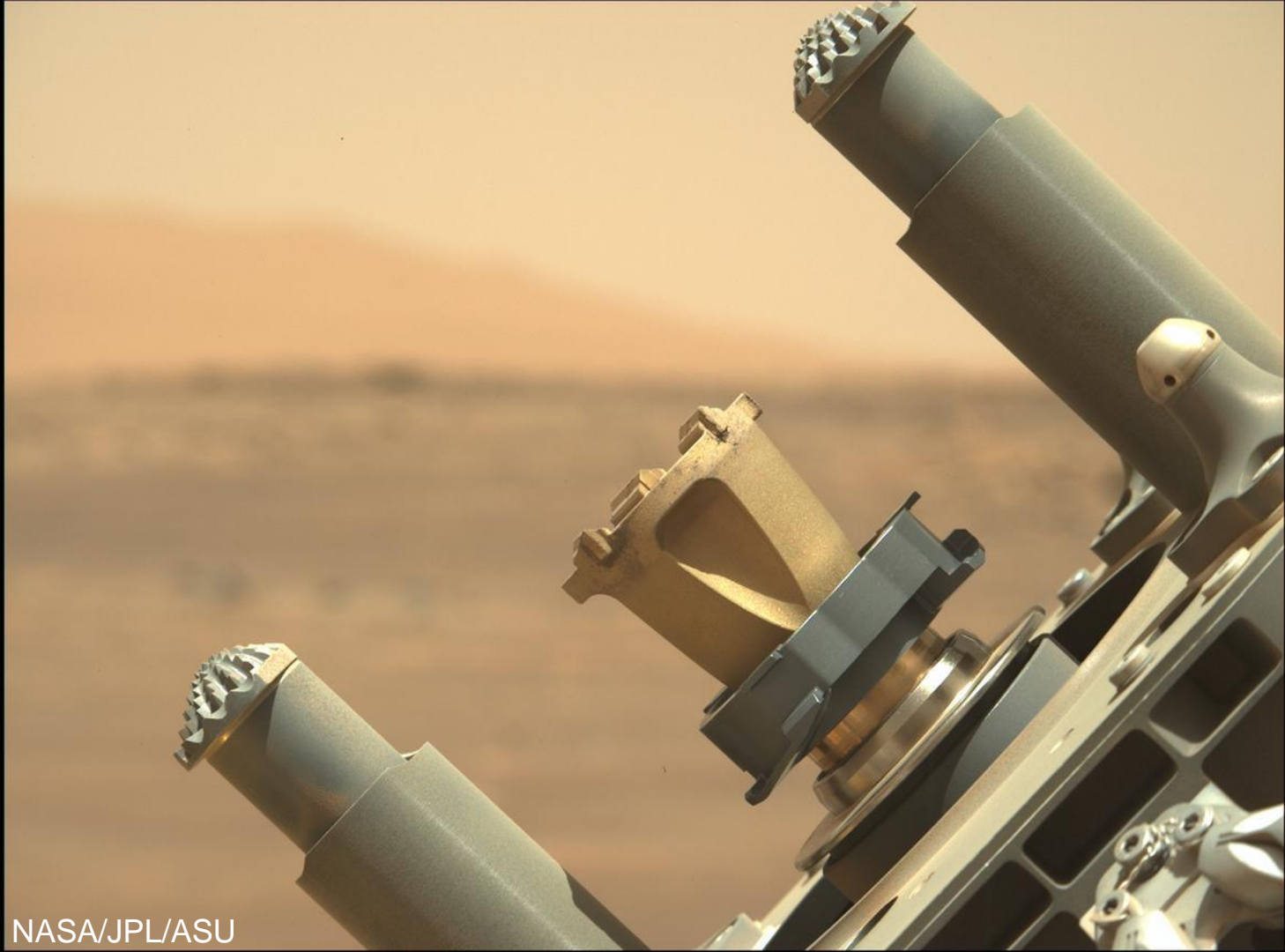


NASA/JPL

Arm mobility tests at Octavia E. Butler Landing Site



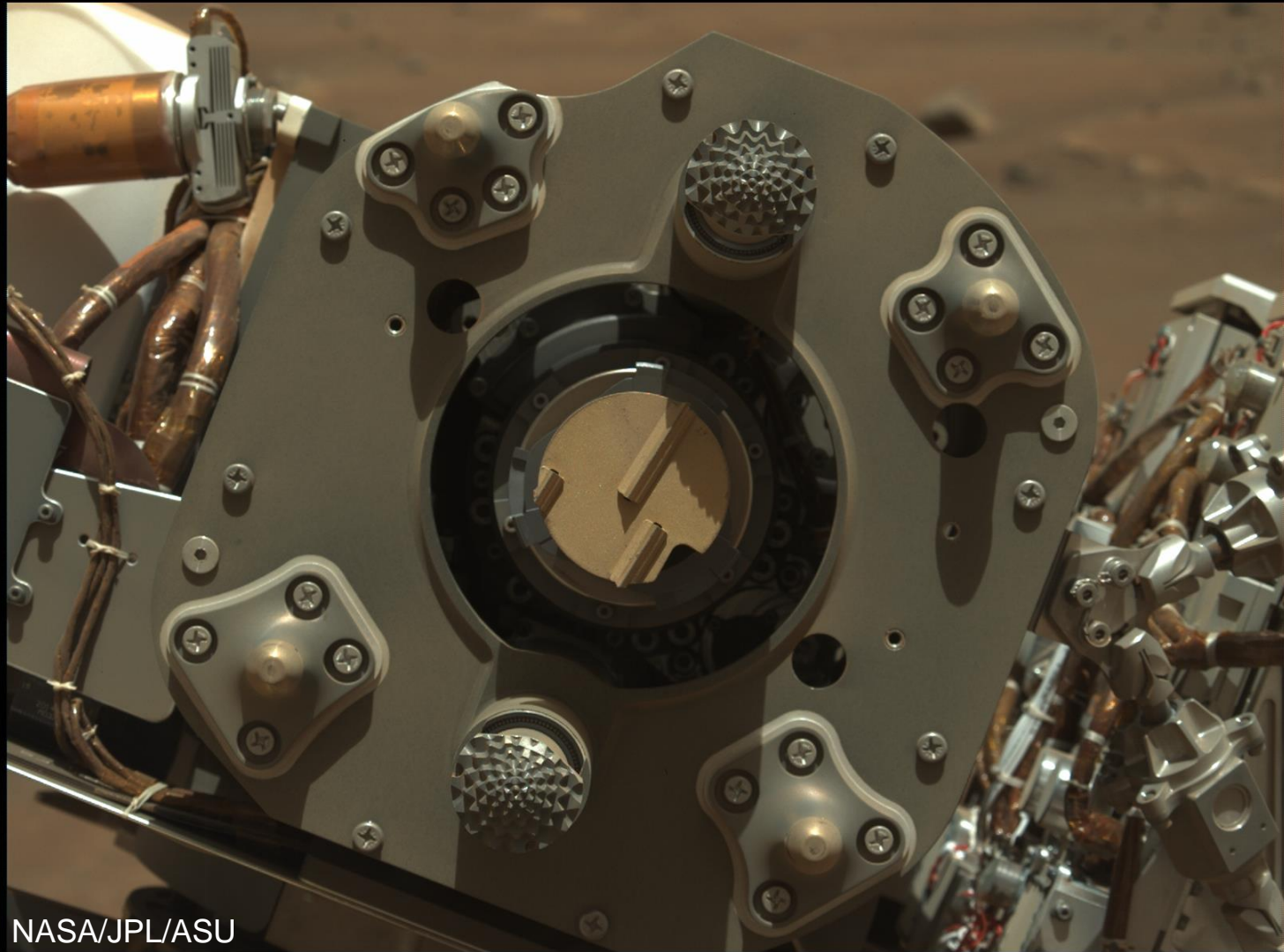
Abrading bit



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL/ASU

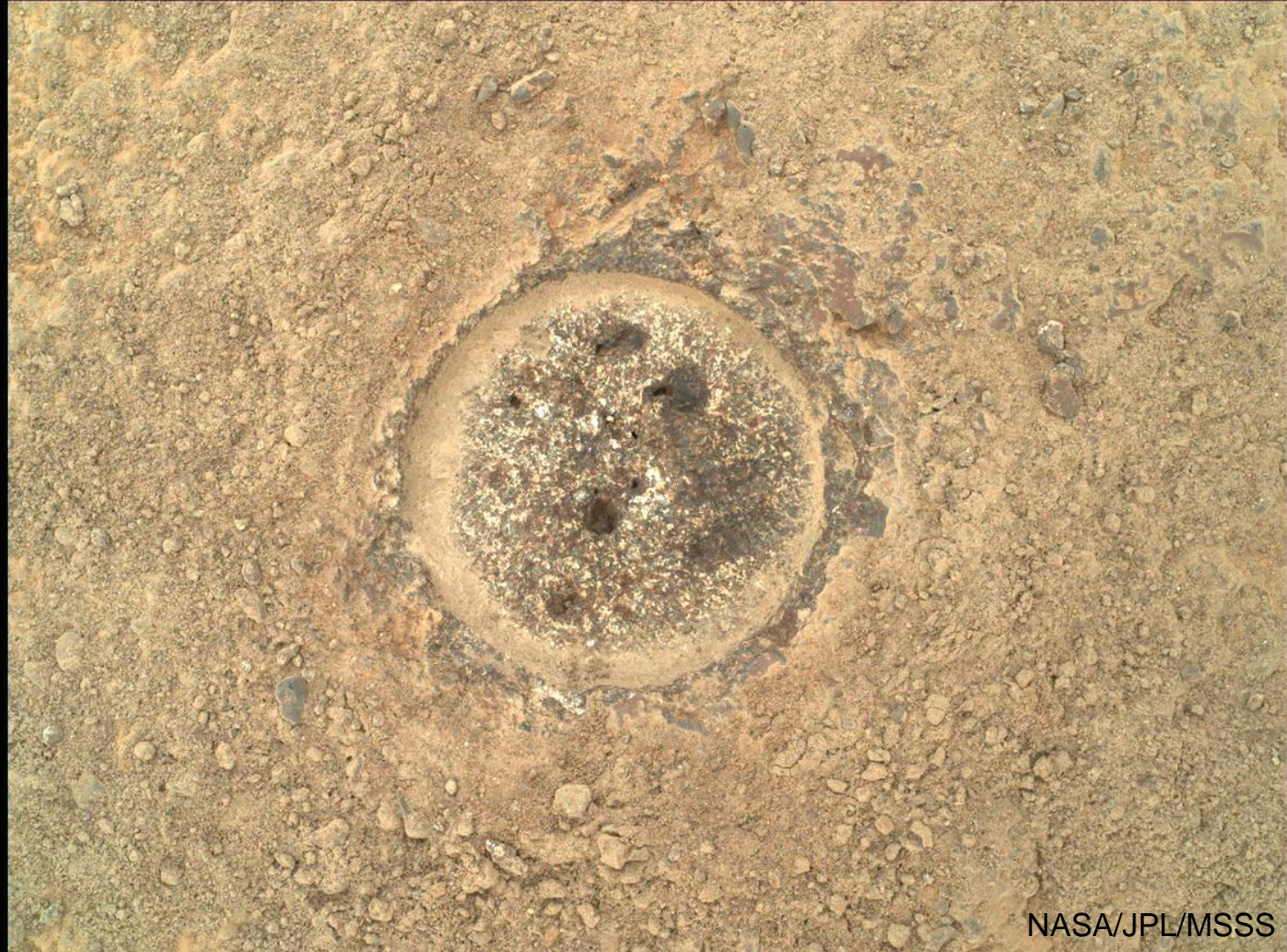
Abrading bit



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL/ASU

Abraded rock patch



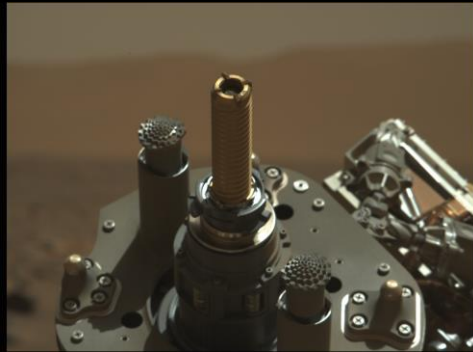
**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL/MSSS

**Getting an up-
close look
using
X-ray
Fluorescence
(PIXL) and
Raman
Spectroscopy
(SHERLOC)**



Drilling bit

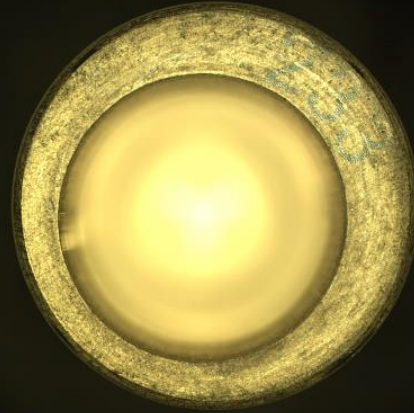


**Abraded
patch next to
borehole**



NASA/JPL/ASU

Surprise! An empty sample tube

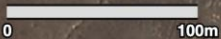
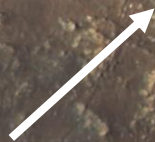


**Disintegrated
remains of the
rock core**



NASA/JPL/MSSS

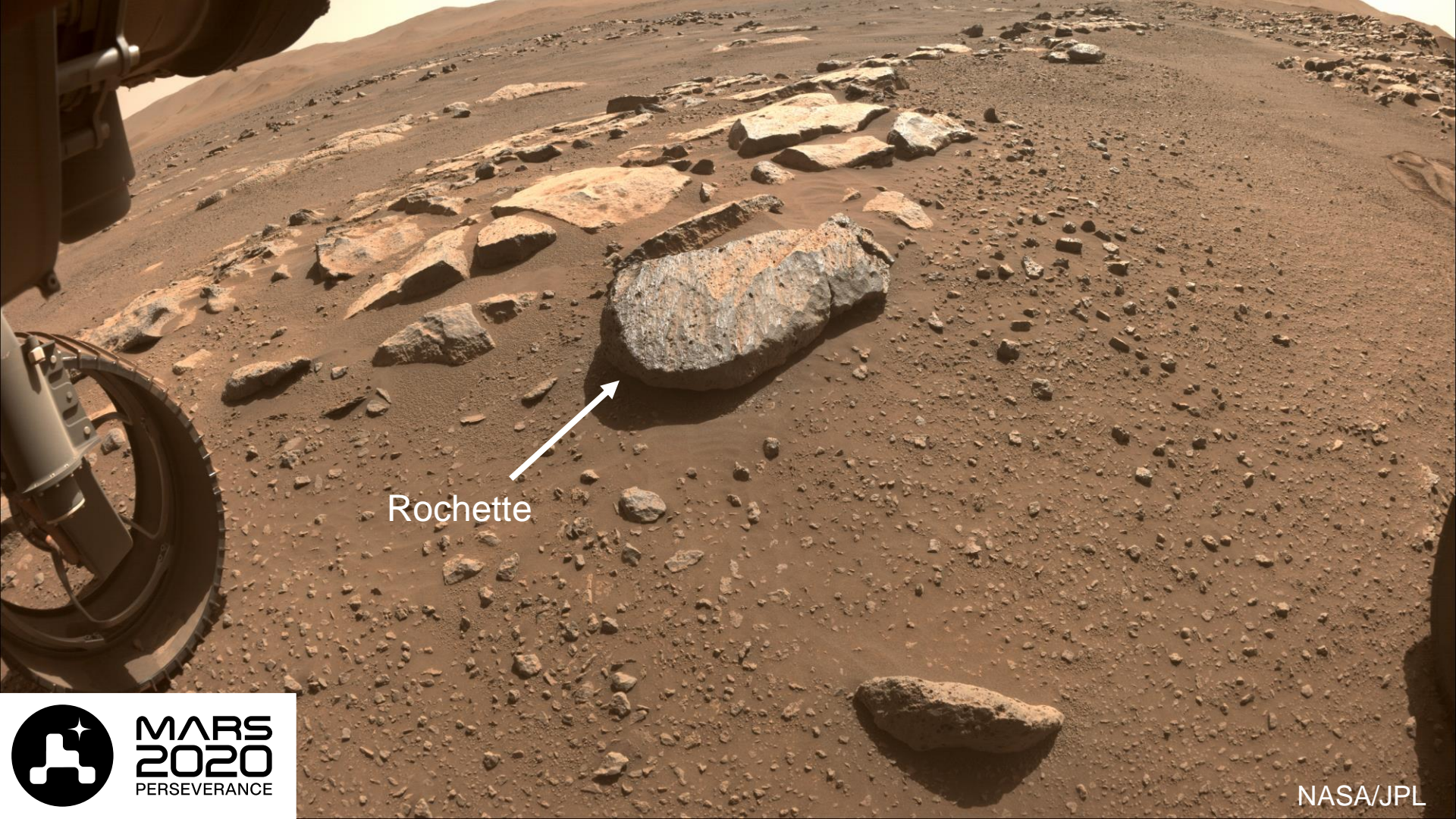
Sampling site 2: the Citadel



NASA/JPL/University of Arizona



MARS
2020
PERSEVERANCE



Rochette



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL

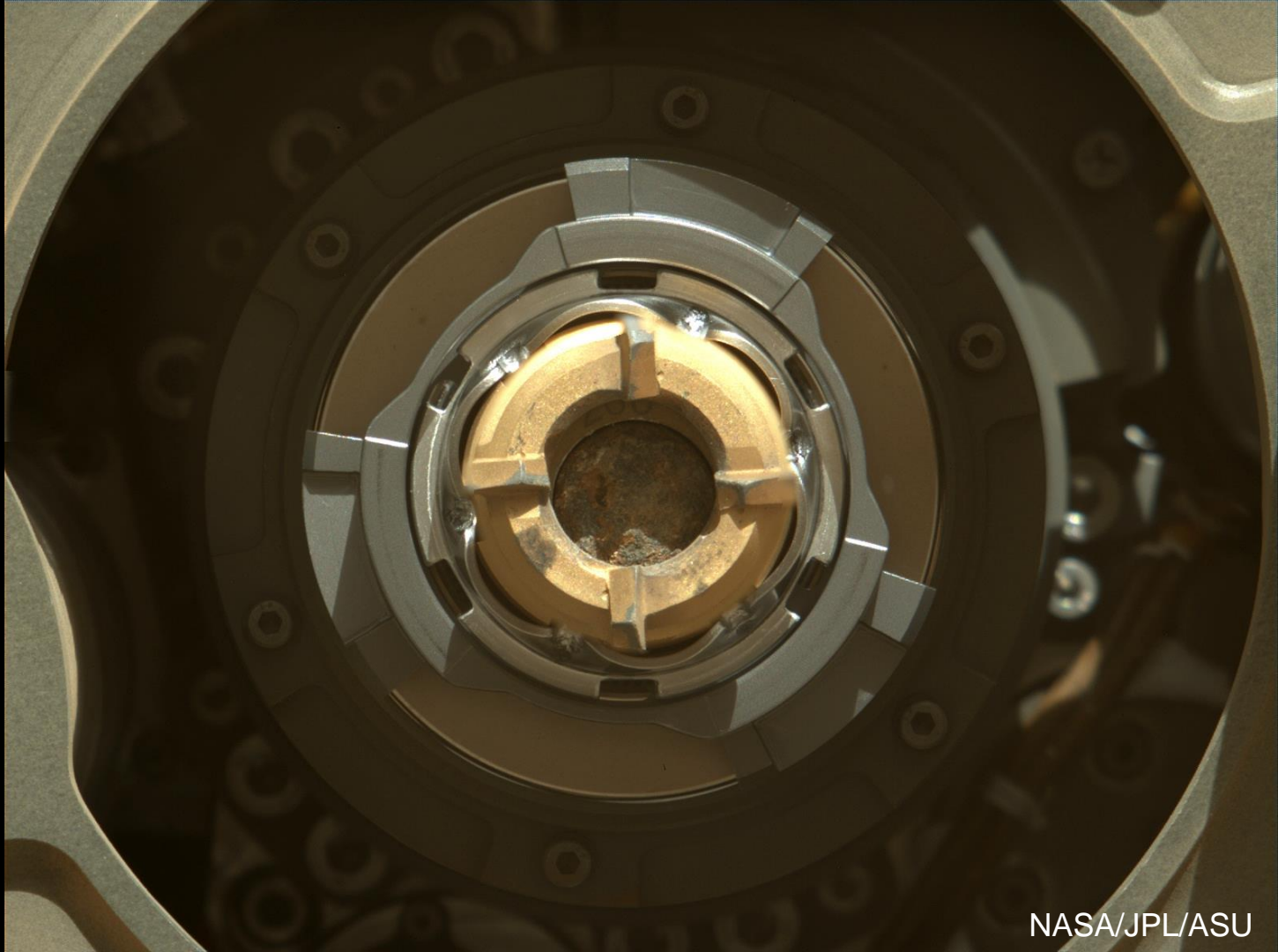
Abraded rock patch: round 2



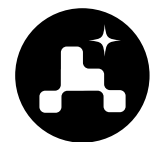
Abraded patch (covered by tailings) and borehole



**Success! A
rock core in
the sample
tube!**



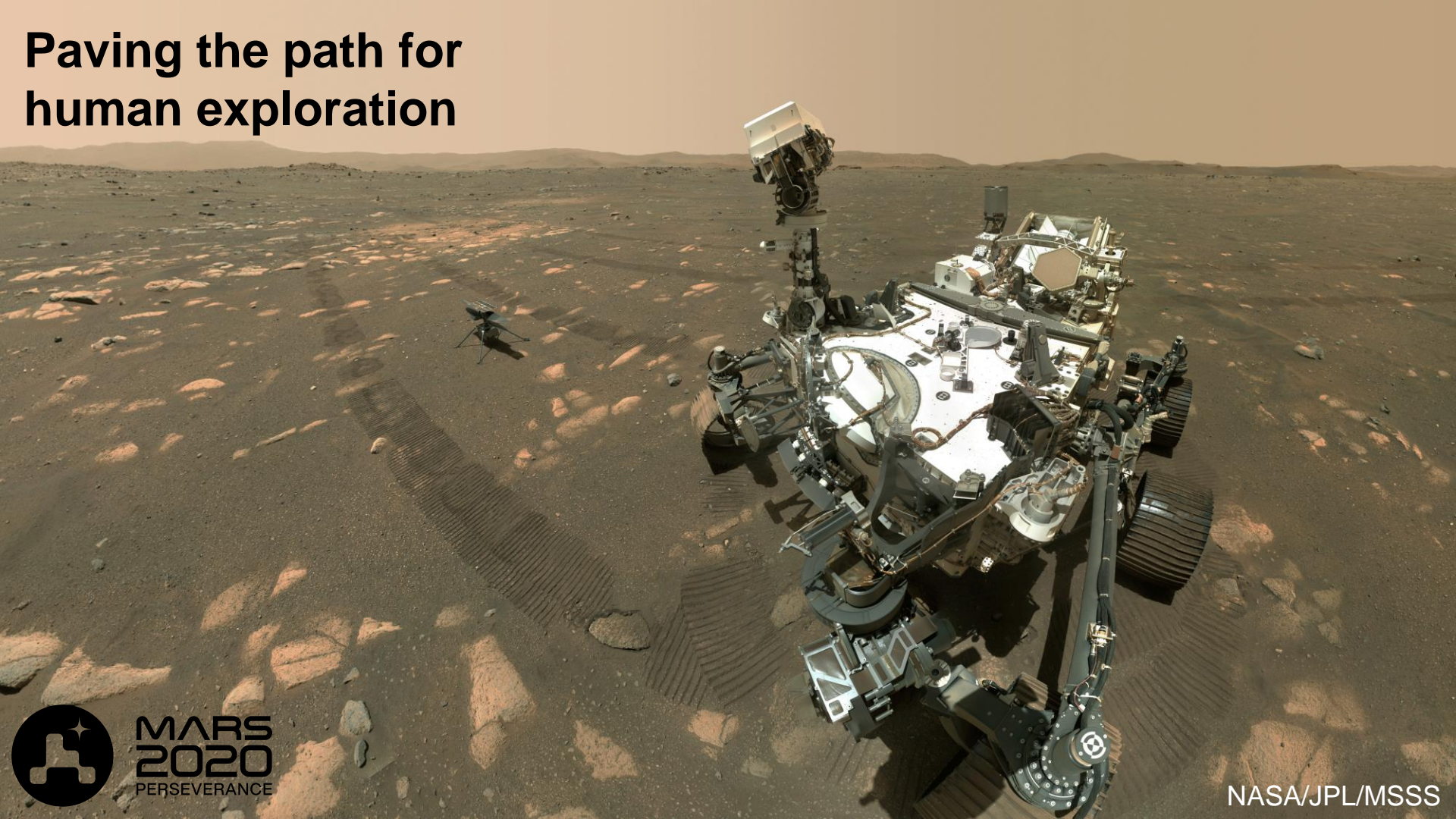
*Flight sample tube handling
during TVAC testing*



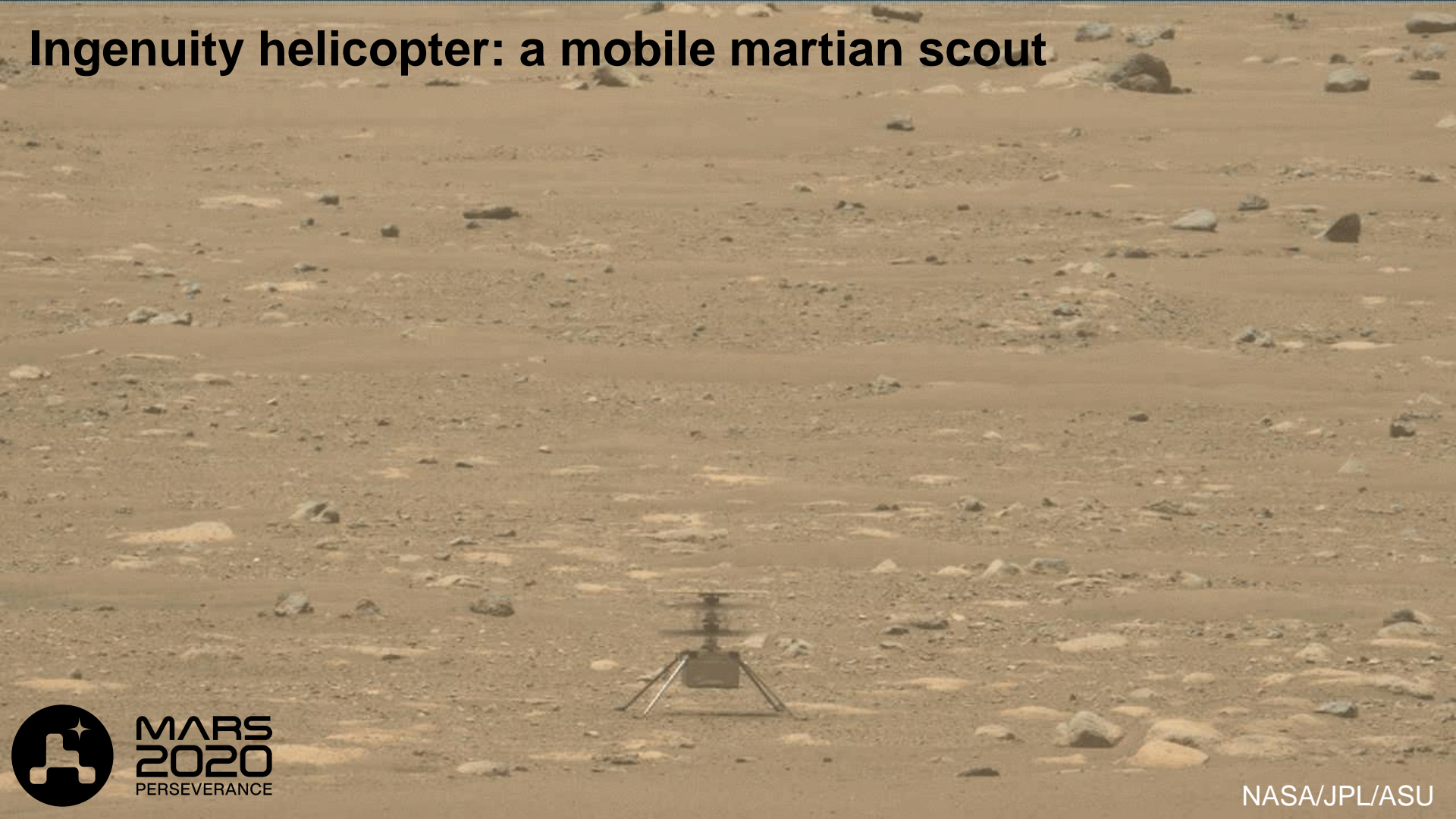
**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL

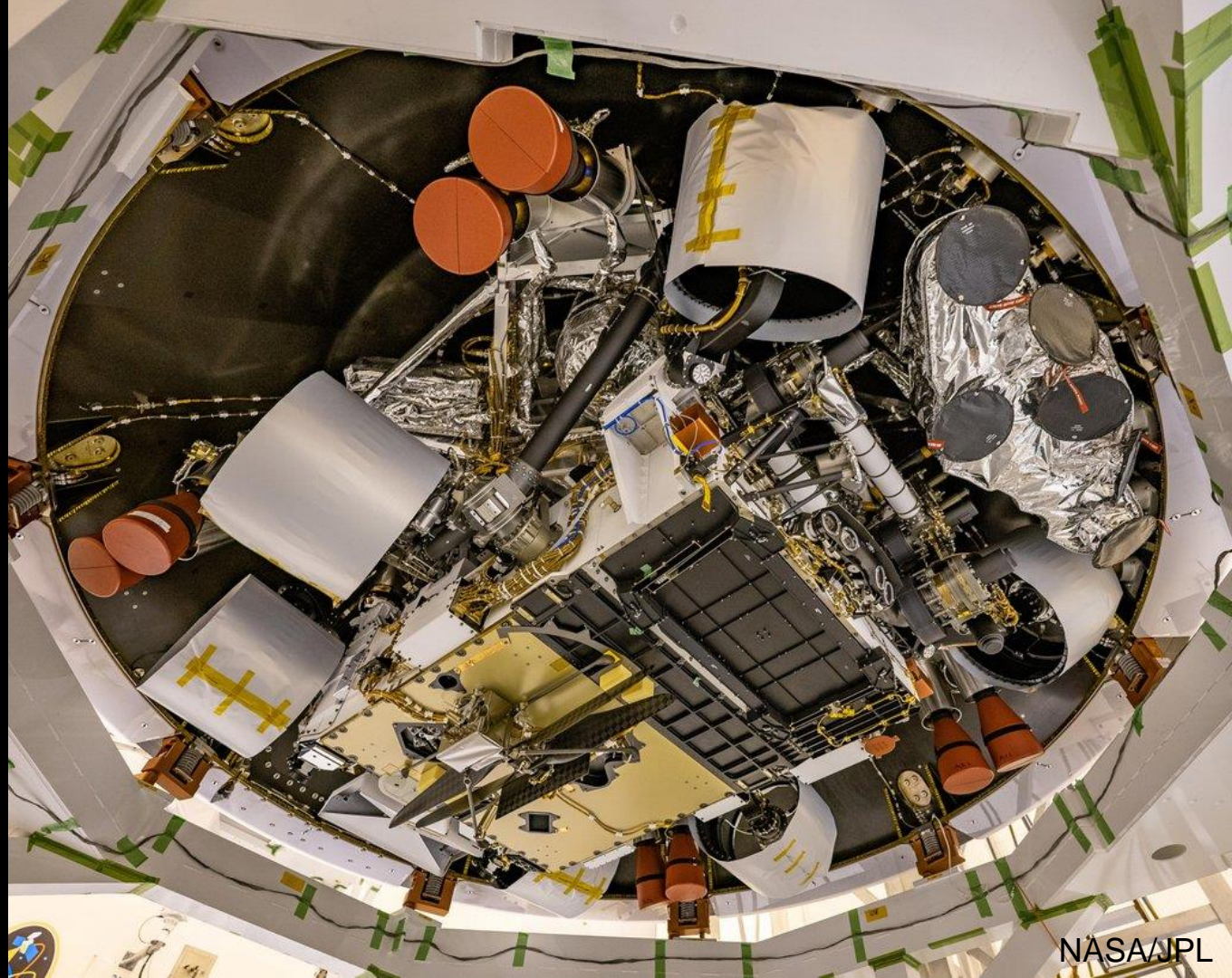
Paving the path for human exploration



Ingenuity helicopter: a mobile martian scout



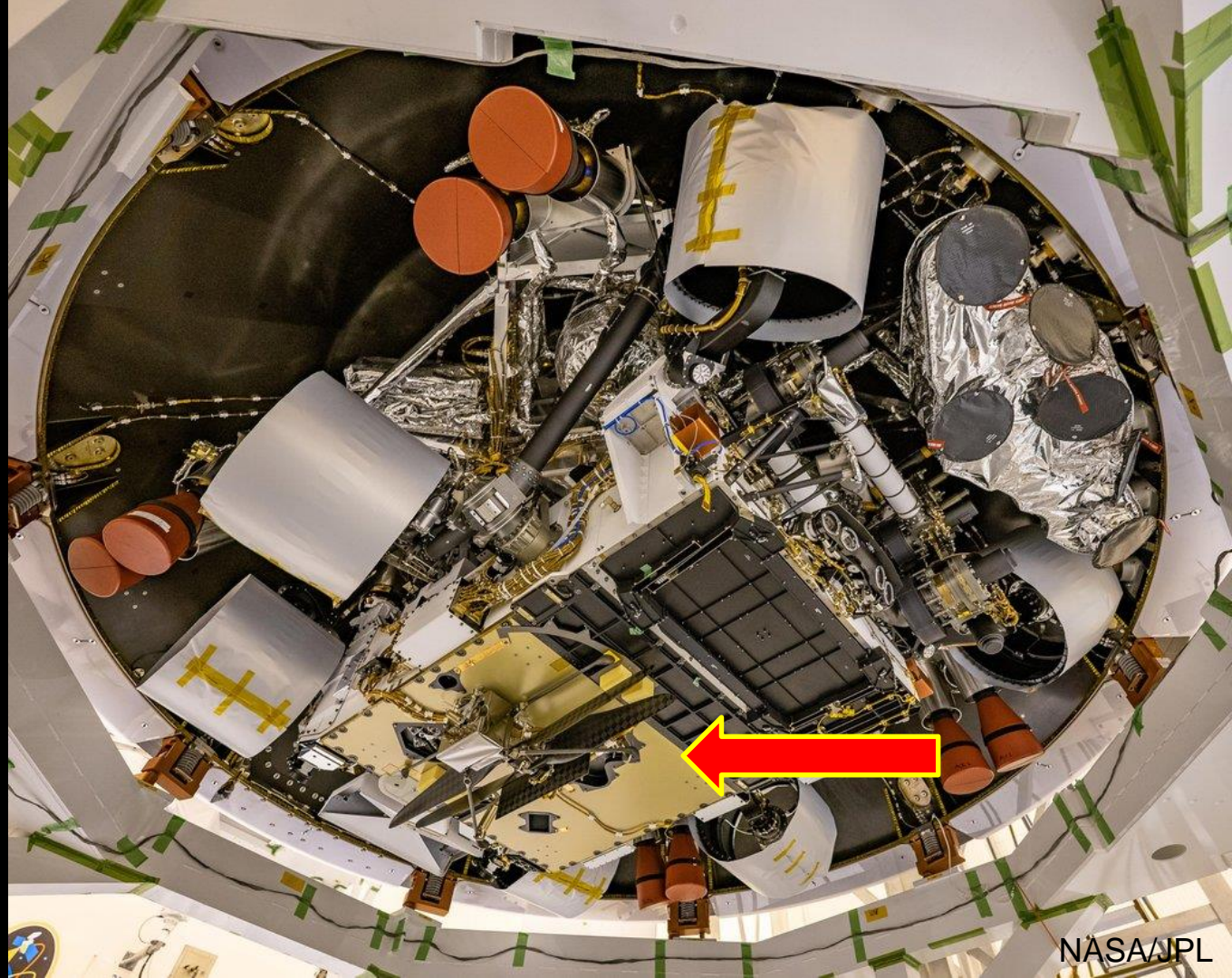
Ingenuity's location on the ride to Mars



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL

Ingenuity's location on the ride to Mars



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

**Swinging
down to the
surface**



NASA/JPL



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

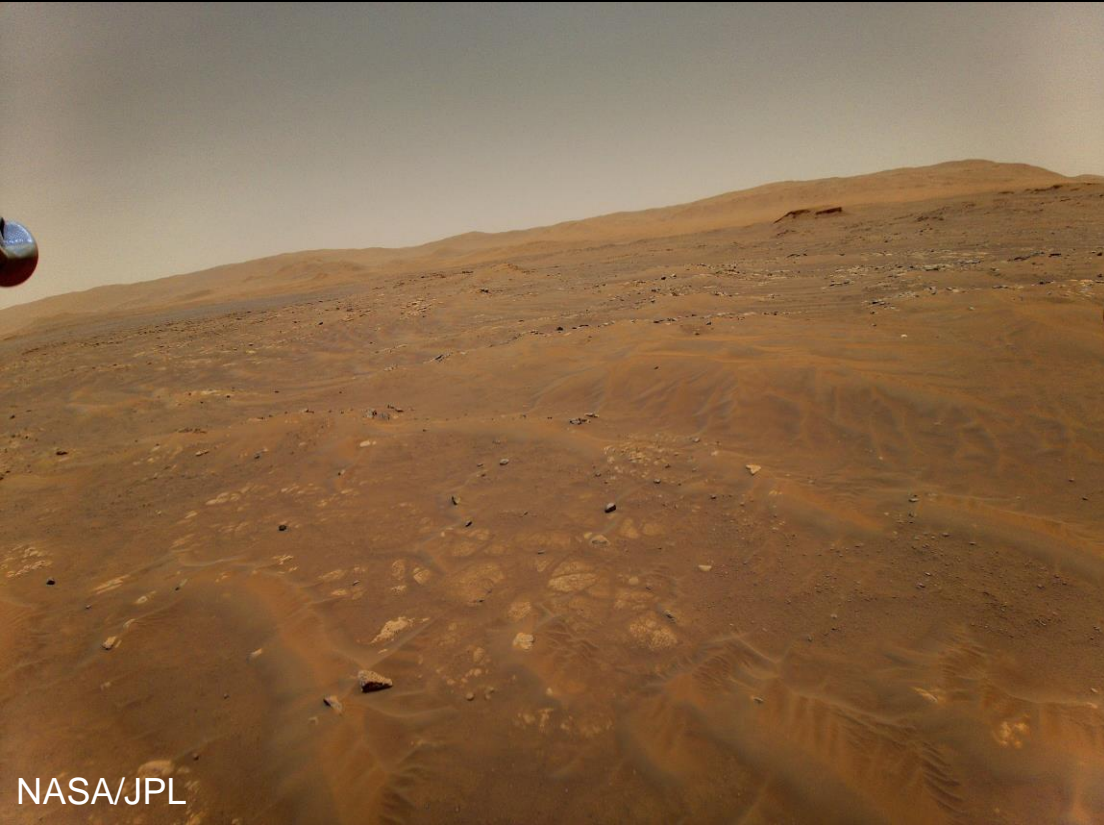
Rotor blade testing



MARS
2020
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL/ASU

Ingenuity covers and maps difficult terrain



NASA/JPL

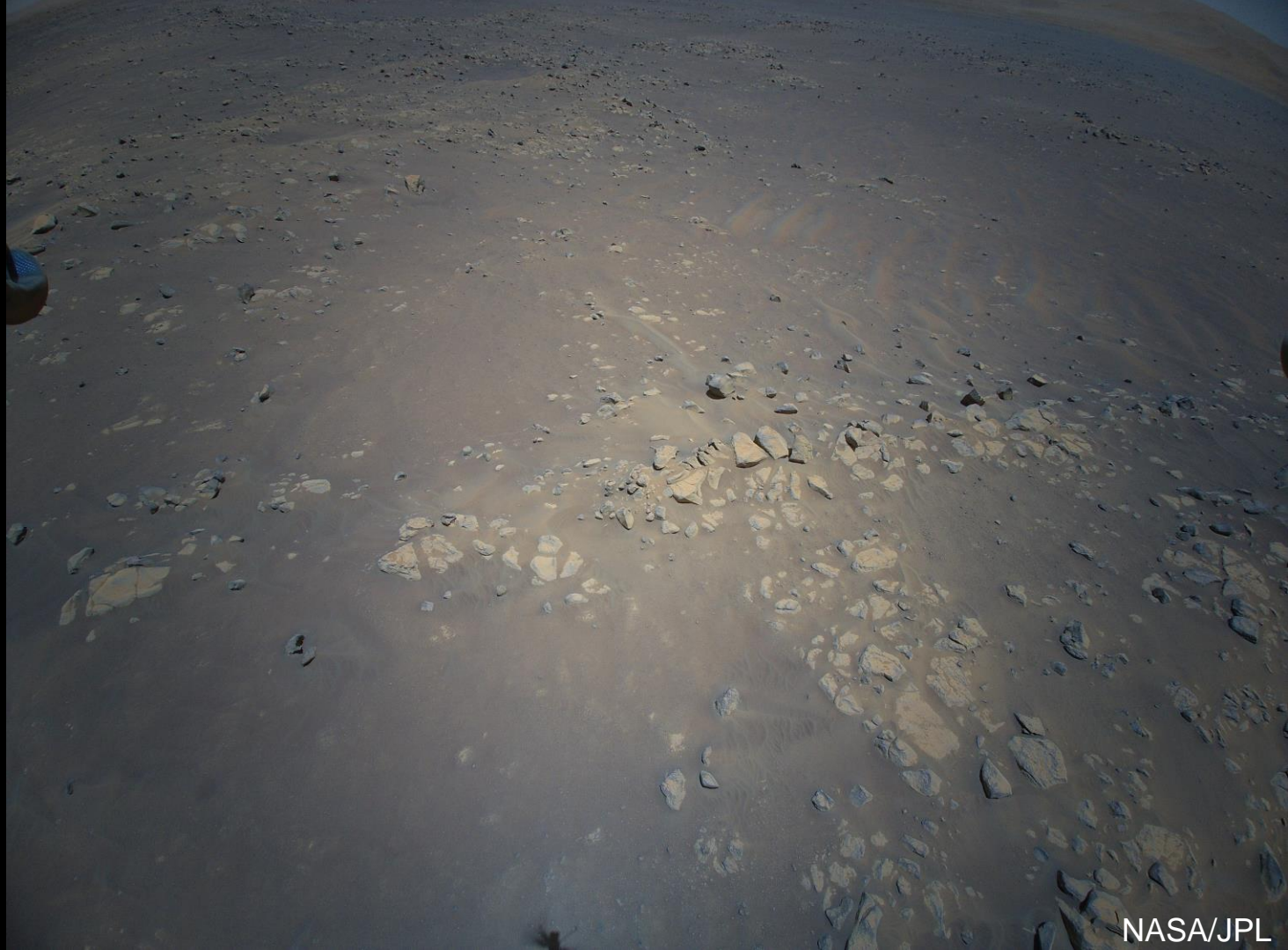


MARS
2020
PERSEVERANCE

Ingenuity covers and maps difficult terrain



**Ingenuity
covers and
maps difficult
terrain**



**MARS
2020**
PERSEVERANCE

NASA/JPL

Ingenuity covers and maps difficult terrain

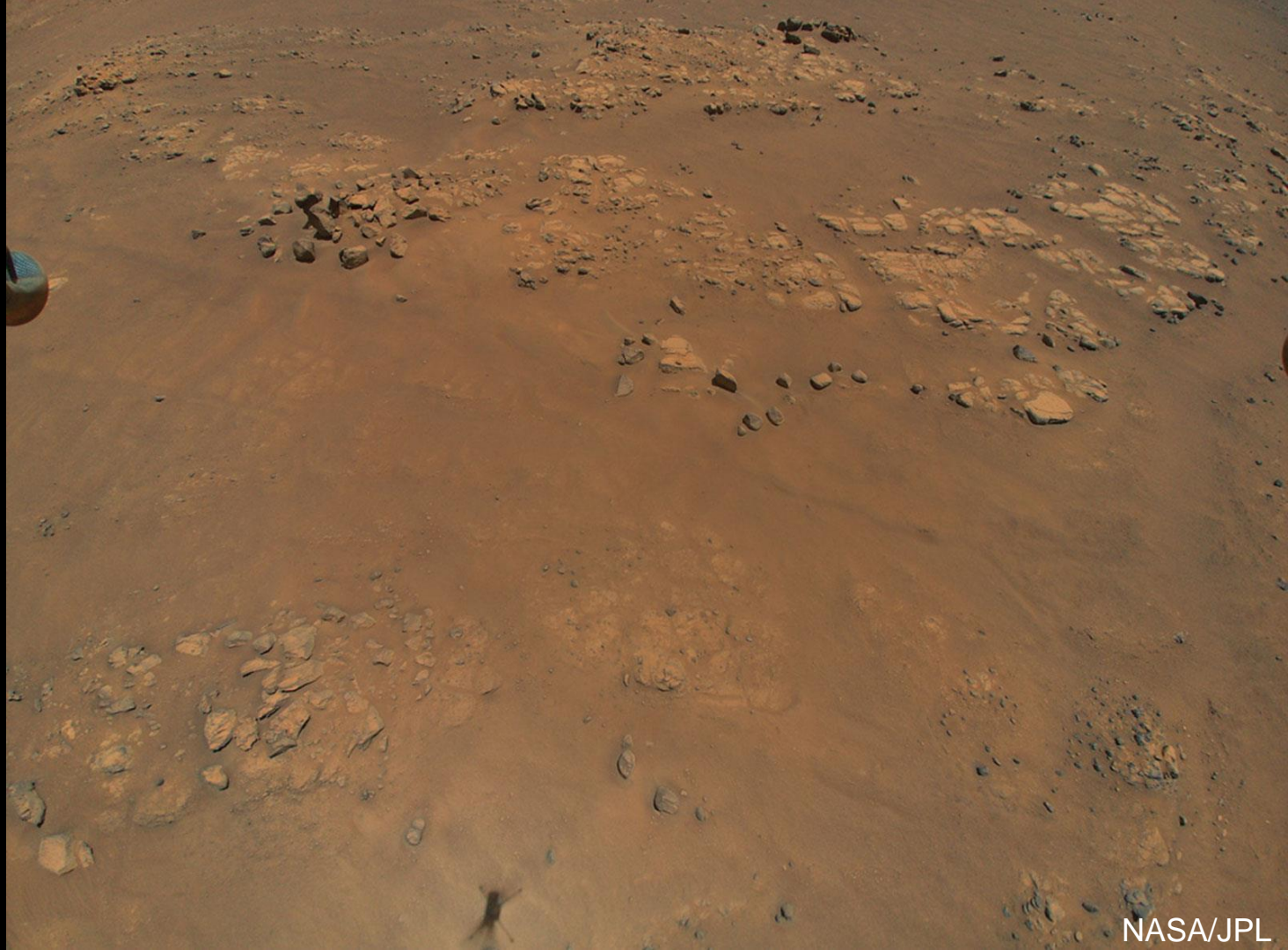


Photo of Perseverance by Ingenuity

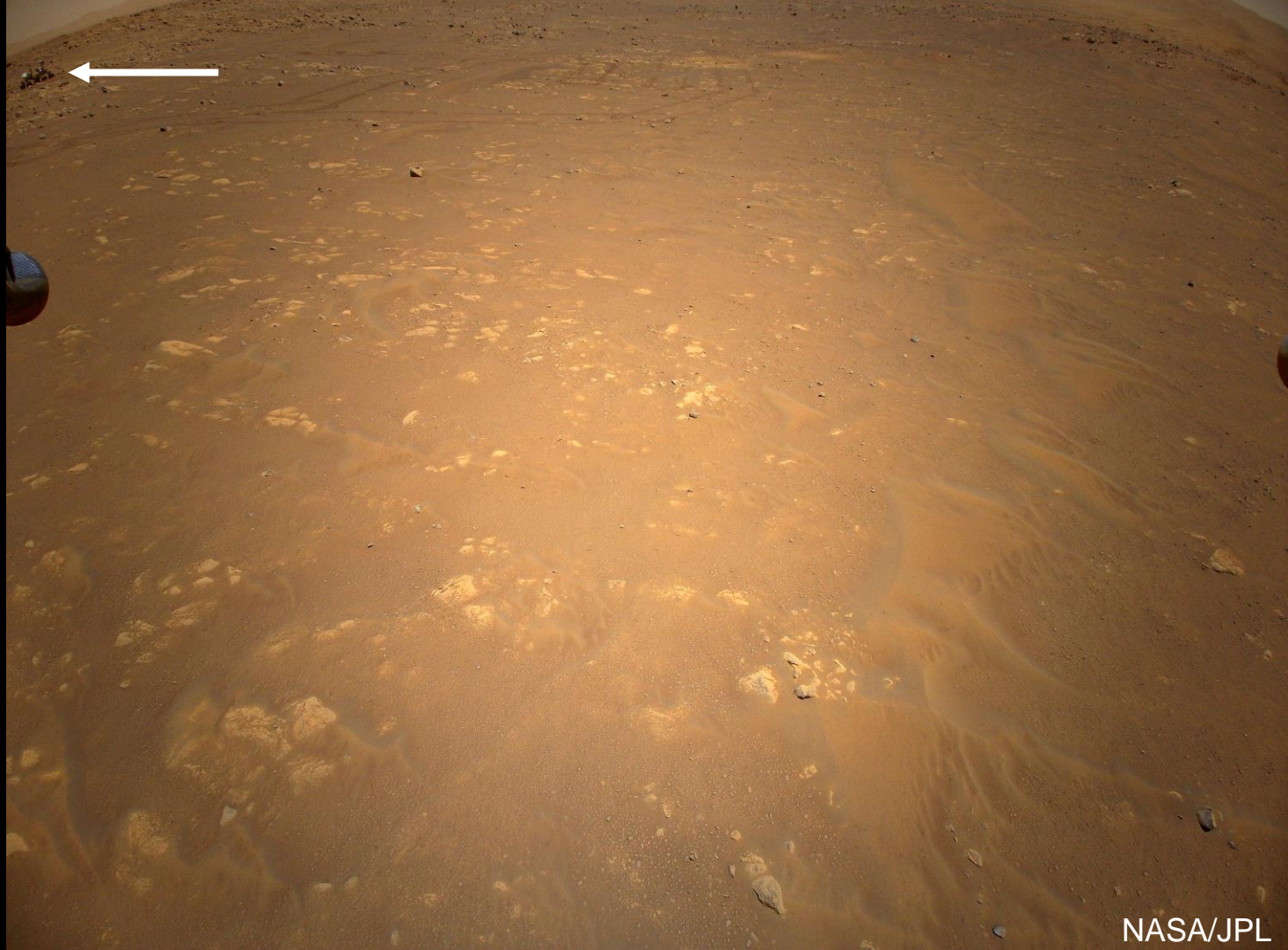


Photo of Ingenuity by Perseverance



**Martian helicopters can be used
for future human and robotic
exploration**

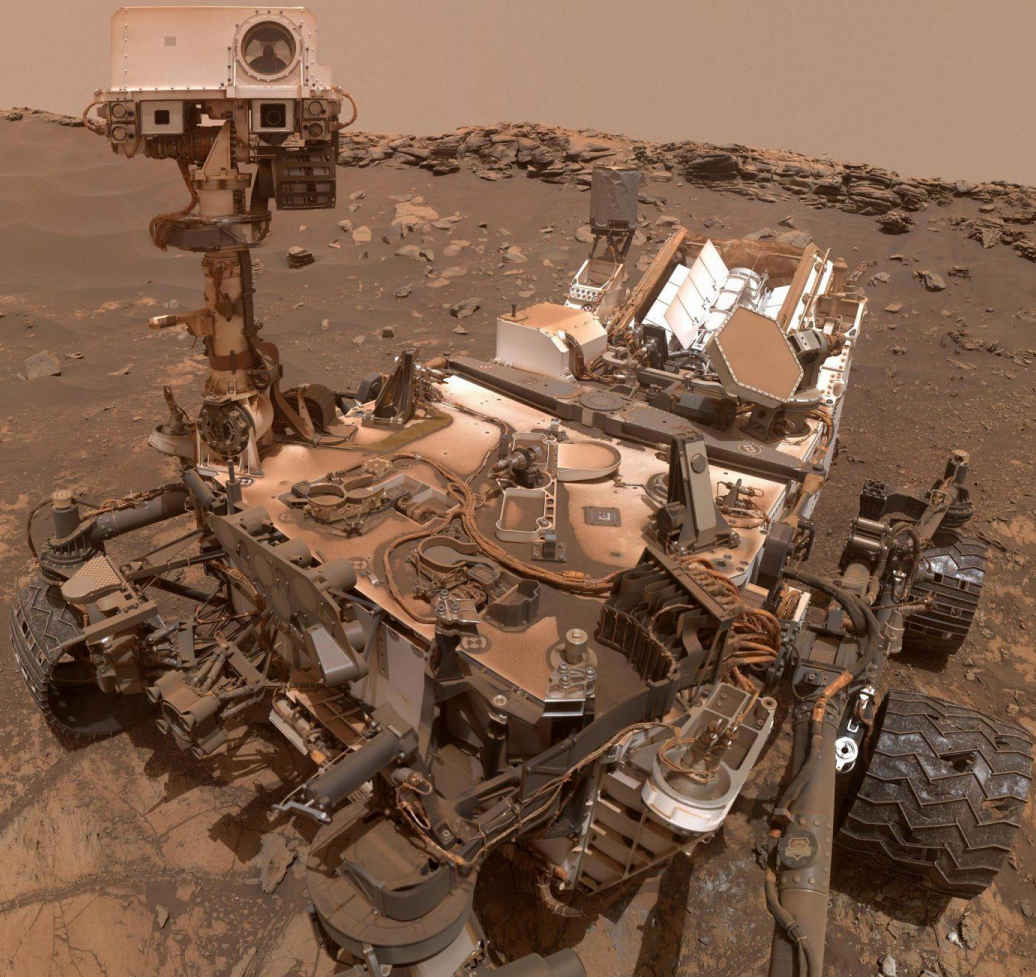


Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE) makes O_2 from the CO_2 in the martian atmosphere





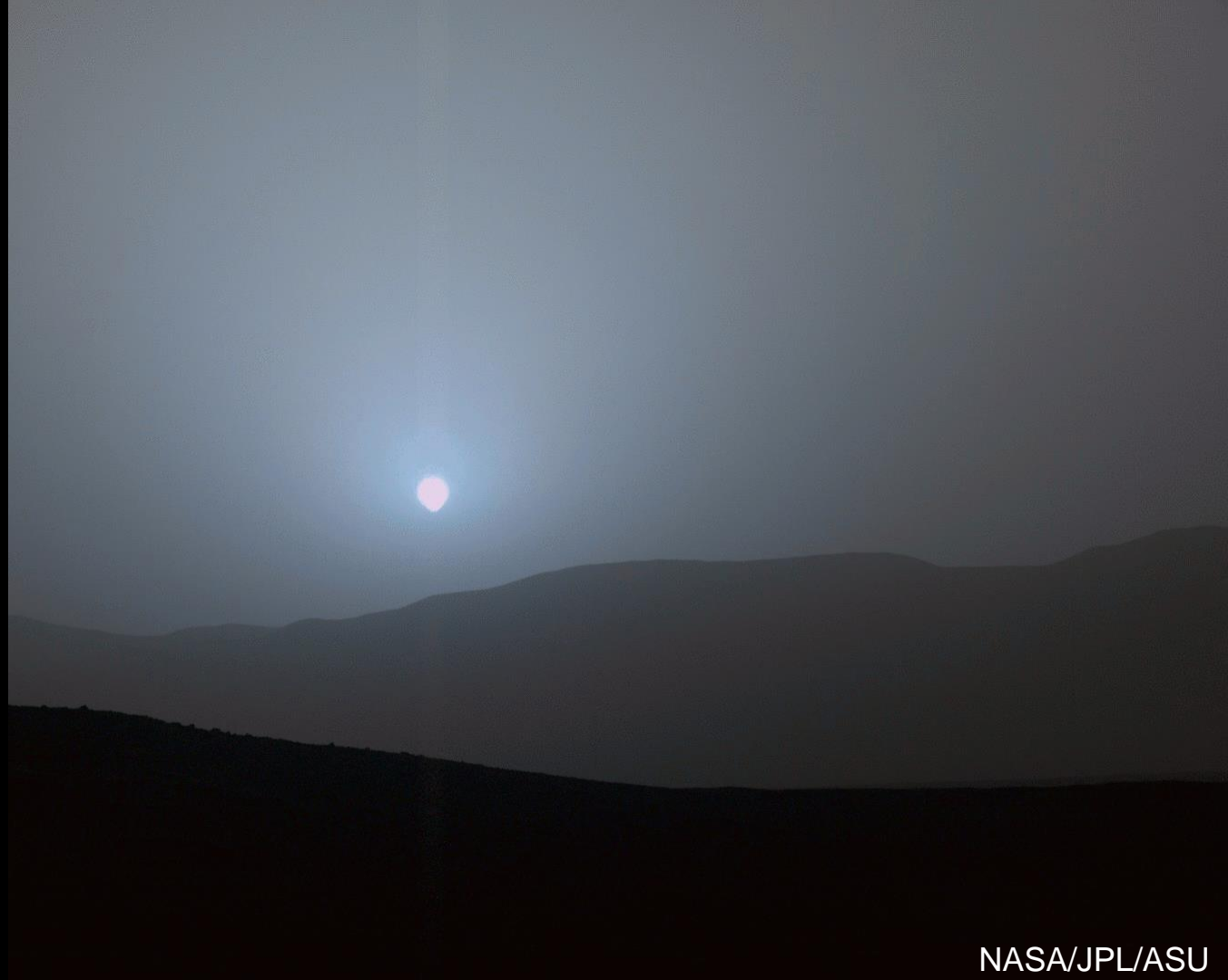
Dust is everywhere!



Observations of dust constrain the processes controlling martian weather



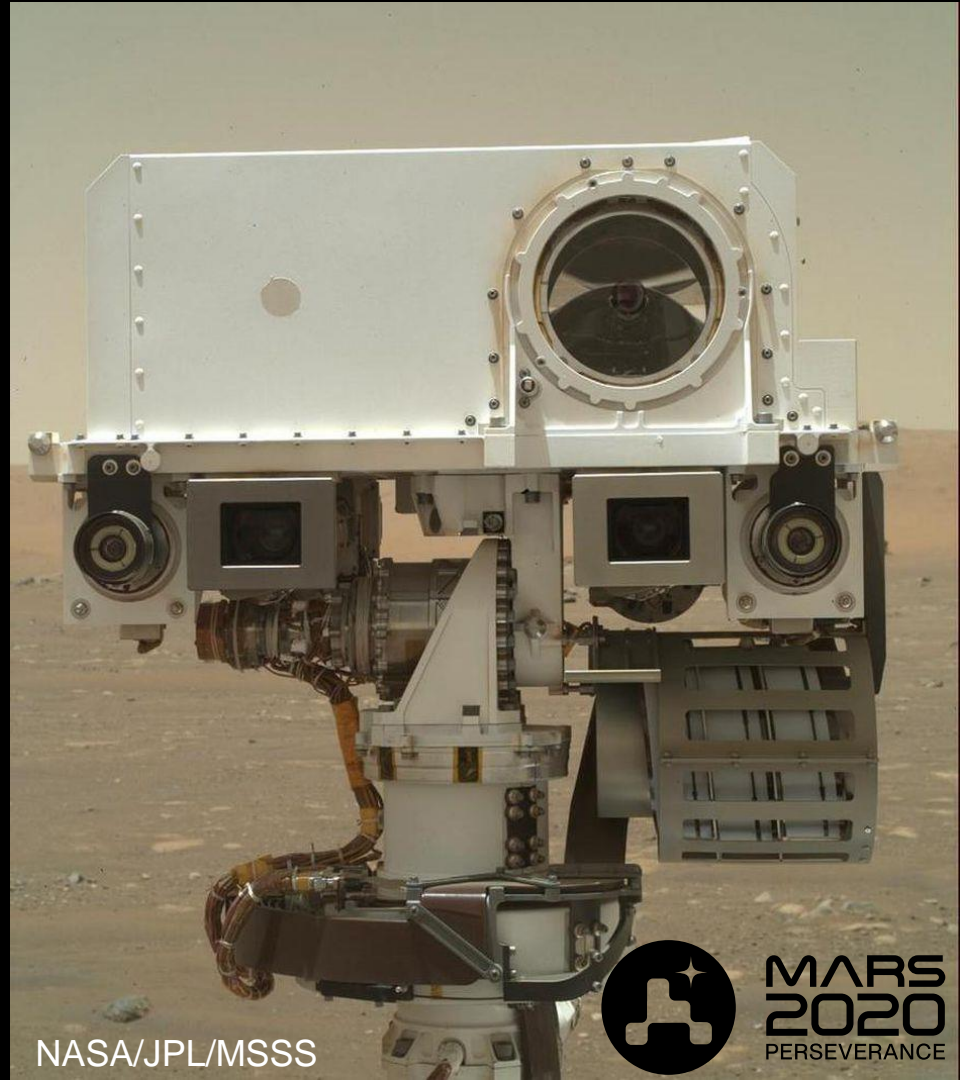
**Martian sunset
captured by
the Curiosity
rover**



Perseverance rover mission: first 200 sols

Science highlights:

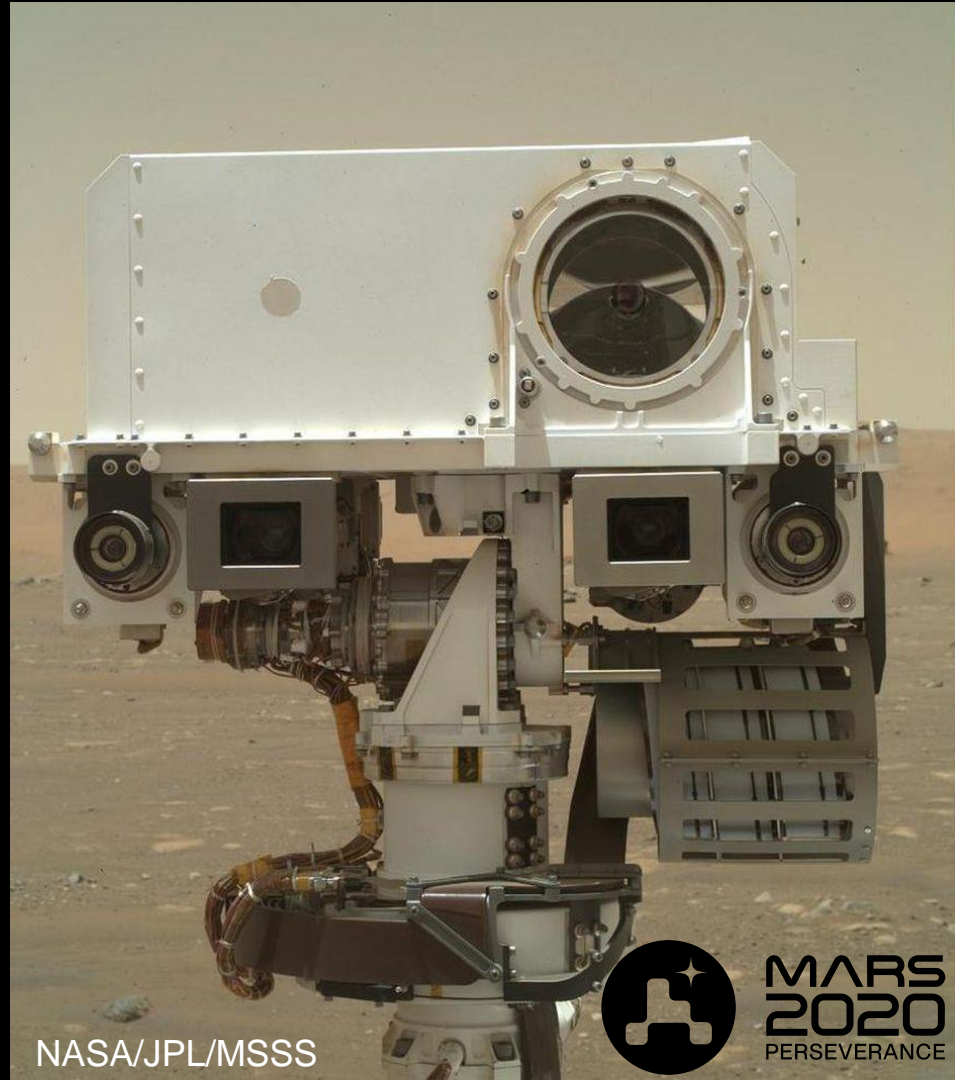
1. Collection of the first rock and atmospheric samples for return to Earth
2. Confirmation of a paleolacustrine environment in Jezero crater
3. Characterization of multiple deltaic units, constraining past aqueous environments on Mars
4. Investigation of multiple crater floor units, leading towards determination of their origins
5. Observations to constrain Mars dust cycling and weather patterns



Perseverance rover mission: first 200 sols

Exploration highlights:

1. First flight by an aircraft off Earth, unlocking new exploration strategies for robotic and human space missions
2. First in-situ production of oxygen from the martian atmosphere (MOXIE)
3. First footage captured of landing on Mars
4. Multiple records set for autonomous navigation driving distance
5. Characterization of seasonal dust cycling and dust devil activity, which affects power production by solar panels





Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

jpl.nasa.gov