



Locomotion Field Trials for a Mars Rover Testbed - Tenerife - 2006

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The EADS Astrium Mars Rover Testbed underwent Locomotion Field Trials on the island of Tenerife earlier this year. Several administrative and practical issues had to be resolved prior to the tests and these will pave the way for more tests in future. The tests demonstrated the chassis' performance over a number of different surface topologies and textures and confirmed the platform's capability. They also evaluated the potential of Tenerife as a Mars analogue site in terms of terrain characteristics, accessibility and availability. The Rover locomotion design is based on RCL suspension concept E, uses a flexible wheel design and is built with the ability to accommodate an autonomous navigation system and a full complement of Pasteur instruments which will be fitted in due course.