**Toronto space conference to discuss travel to Mars, other planets**

**Key phrase:** space travel

**Tags:** space travel, Mars, Toronto space conference, Toronto National Space Society, NASA, space expeditions, travel to outer space, Buzz Aldrin, travel to Mars, travel to planets, moon landing, space missions, space satellites, solar power in space, Canadian space agencies,

Since the NASA-orchestrated Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969, scientists, researchers and astronomers have continued to pave the way toward the next big leap for mankind. The upcoming 34th annual conference held by the [National Space Society](http://www.nss.org/) in Toronto, Canada, will explore man facets of future space travel. The five-day forum, from May 20 to 24, will spotlight travel to Mars and to other planetary bodies beyond Earth. More than 1,700 delegates from around the world will congregate — scientists, educators, engineers and business representatives from various sectors — to discuss specific proposals and logistical issues regarding space travel.

**Scheduled for the conference: experts on the feasibility of space travel**

Prominent on the agenda is the potential travel to Mars. At the conference, experts will discuss technical plans, such as the types of propulsion that should be used for the travel to the Red Planet. One existing proposal involves usage of a “plasma rocket system,” which could more than halve the travel time from nine to two months. Naturally, conference goers will be expecting to hear the crucial advice of Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, one of the first humans to successfully land on the moon. They’ll be looing forward to seeing him address the conference, and to touch on the possible dangers and downsides of building and sustain such a monumental space travel project.

Aldrin will also be examining the costs of such a mission, coupling them with other factors and helping set a realistic timeframe for the execution of the project. In addition to experts’ proposed to-do list regarding travel to Mars, the conference will also run diverse sections and seminars overlooking business, education and policy regarding imminent space travel plans. Also in the program: lessons on the latests advances in rocket launch systems, which are currently being developed by NASA and design companies like [SpaceX](http://www.spacex.com/), who have already collaborated in sending supplies to the International Space Station.

**New innovations in space travel: Canadian advancements, solar power and satellites**

The conference will also highlight technological advancements made by Canadian companies, who have grown in their studies and manufacturing of small space satellites and, very importantly, solar power usage. “Space-based solar power,” one of the most critical innovations pertaining to space exploration, describes the process of collecting energy from sunlight on satellites and transmitting it back to Earth.

There is no doubt that this will be a fruitful conference, with telling conclusions — the rest of us will have to wait to find out about these pivotal projects for the future of the space industry and of space travel.