COORDINATES

It was cold, dark, and isolated. That is a brief description of a nighttime on Mars. The red desert truly does tell some stories about life. I’ve spent about 266 solar days experimenting and examining Martian climate and soil. My mates left a month ago, while I am due to return in 5 days. What was actually interesting during my stay was the ability to grow organic life. Oh, there’s a message. It says: “Hello astronaut 210, Dr. Michael Nel. Please send us your coordinates for probe landing. Thank you.” Well, that’s a golden one. “NASA, this is Dr. Nel, ID 210, coordinates are trench 255.689A North East and 52.87E level 2.01 altitude. Ready for launch whenever clear.” I’m going back home!

Home is where life is at its best. When I first joined the Mars program, I started to get a little homesick. Basically, we were a group of seven astronauts. Imagine having to live in a 7m x 8m cabin and seeing the same people everyday for seven months. Then, we had to endure the zero gravity and solar radiation effects. I never missed that big, blue planet this much. There’s water, air, a balanced climate, and plants. Money no longer became more important to me than just feeling the breeze on my face. “Dr. Nel, ready for launch?” “Ready for launch, over.” The rocket blasted off to a frontier of possibilities, since this is definitely a man’s dream come true. I’m Buzz Lightyear to the rescue. Several screens across the globe broadcasted my return as the first and last man to step foot on Mars. Just one thing guys, can we keep the interviews after two weeks of sleep recovery?