

nsmca@aurora.alaska.edu writes:

[Excellent discussion of DC-X landing techniques by Henry deleted]

>Since the DC-X is to take off horizontal, why not land that way??

The DC-X will not take off horizontally. It takes off vertically.

>Why do the Martian Landing thing..

For several reasons. Vertical landings don't require miles of runway and limit noise pollution. They don't require wheels or wings. Just turn on the engines and touch down. Of course, as Henry pointed out, vertical landings aren't quite that simple.

>Or am I missing something.. Don't know to

>much about DC-X and such.. (overly obvious?).

Well, to be blunt, yes. But at least you're learning.

>Why not just fall to earth like the Russian crafts?? Parachute in then...

The Soyuz vehicles use parachutes for the descent and then fire small rockets just before they hit the ground. Parachutes are, however, not especially practical if you want to reuse something without much effort. The landings are also not very comfortable. However, in the words of Georgy Grechko, "I prefer to have bruises, not to sink."

Josh Hopkins

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"Tout ce qu'un homme est capable d'imaginer, d'autres hommes
seront capables de le réaliser"

-Jules Verne