

NASA engineers are busy constructing and testing the Mars 2020 rover, which now supports itself on its six legs and wheels. The rover, set to launch in July 2020 atop an Atlas V rocket, will land on Mars on February 18, 2021, using an autonomous landing technique. It will explore the Jezero Crater, once filled with water, in search of ancient life. The rover's wheels, designed for stability and maneuverability, are placeholders, with final wheels to be installed next year. The contest to name the rover ends on November 1, 2019, for U.S. students in grades 1 to 12.