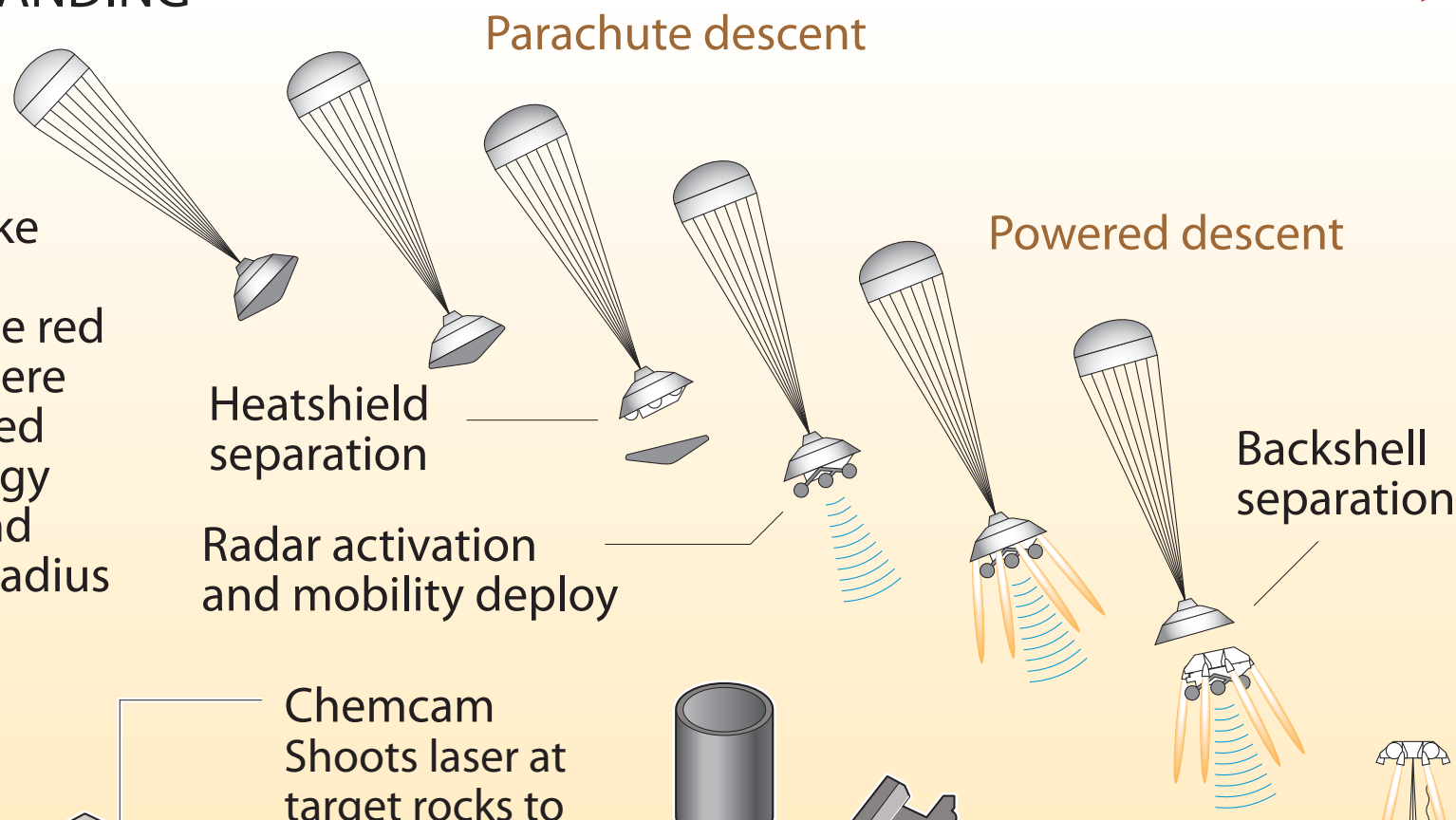


Mars Science Laboratory

NASA is set to launch on Saturday a large mobile robot that will explore and conduct experiments on the surface of Mars, to assess whether the planet ever had an environment capable of supporting life

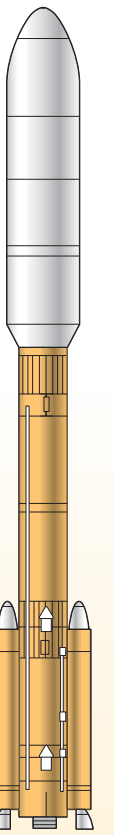
PRECISION LANDING

After launching from Earth, the spacecraft will take an 8 1/2 months cruise to reach the red planet's atmosphere where its equipped landing technology will allow it to land within a 12 mile radius



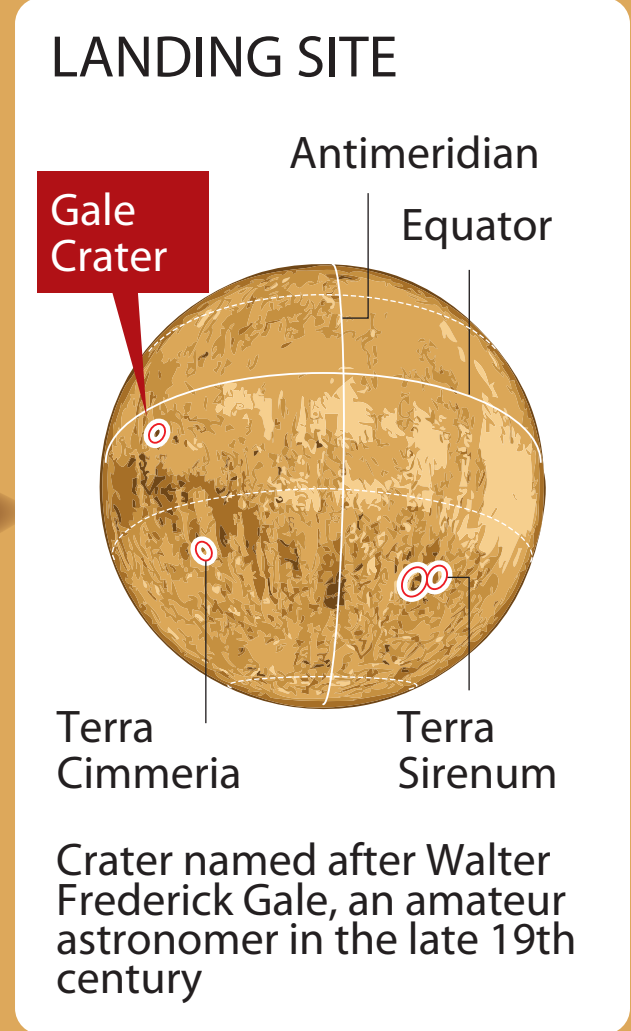
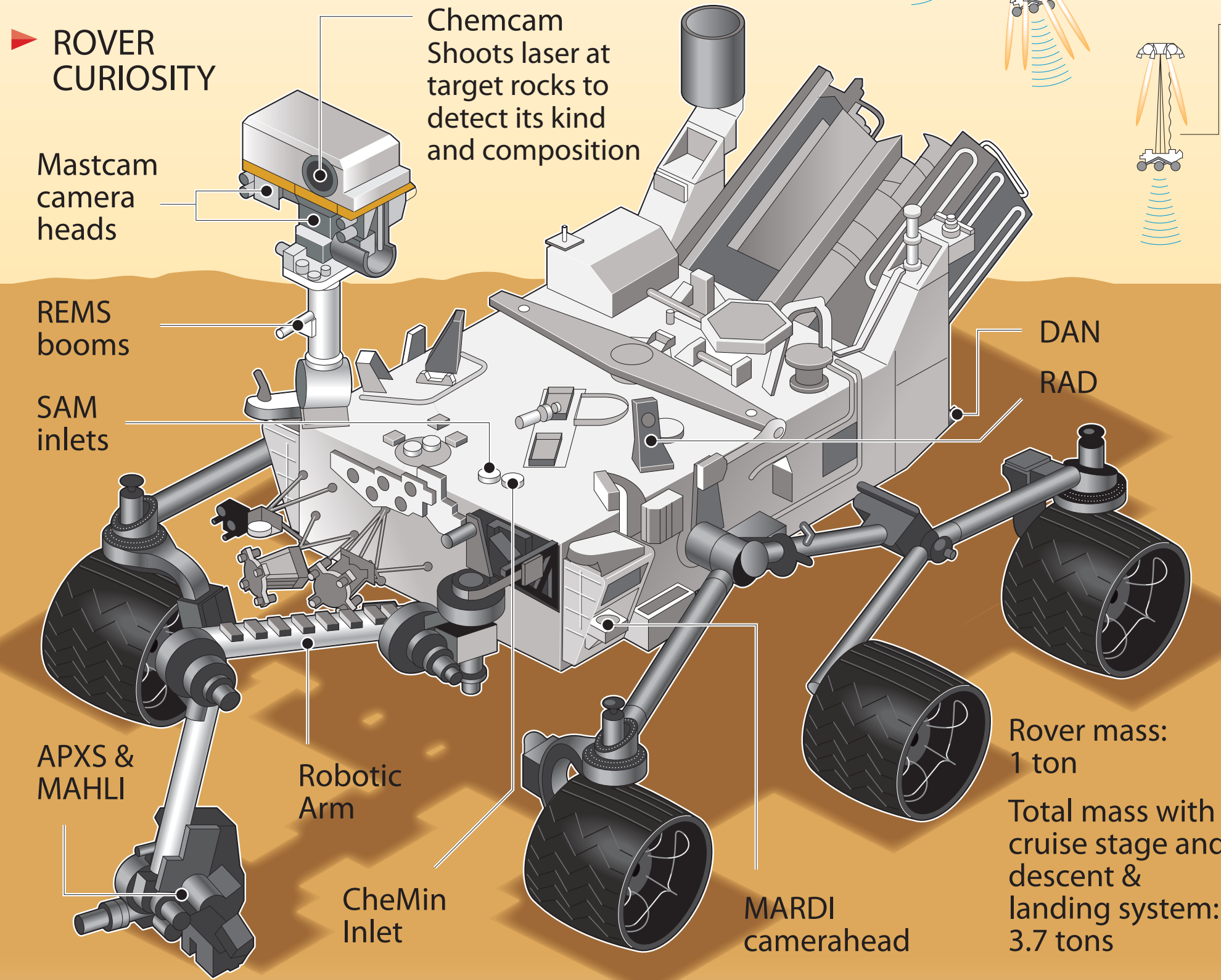
LAUNCH VEHICLE

Atlas V-541
Length: 190 ft
Total mass, fully-fueled with spacecraft: 585 tons



Landing on Mars by Aug. 2012

ROVER CURIOSITY

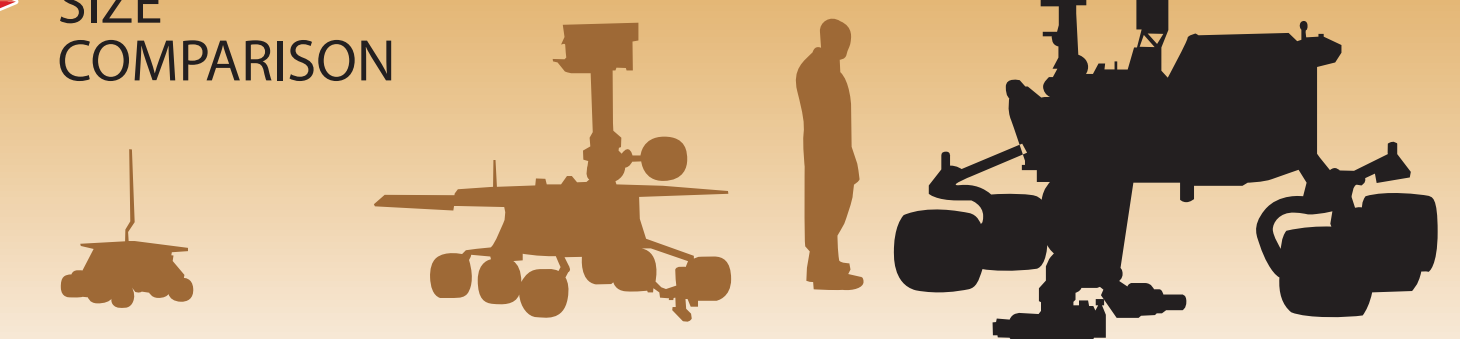


Rover mass: 1 ton
Total mass with cruise stage and descent & landing system: 3.7 tons

MAIN INSTRUMENTS

- REMS - Rover Environment Monitoring Station
- SAM - Sample Analysis at Mars
- APXS - Alpha Particle X-Ray, Spectrometer
- MAHLI - Mars Hand Lens Imager
- MARDI - Mars Descent Imager
- RAD - Radiation Assessment Detector
- DAN - Dynamic Albedo of Neutrons

SIZE COMPARISON



Mars Pathfinder (1997) Mars Exploration Rover (2007-2010) Mars Science Laboratory (2011)