

THE RACE TO THE RED PLANET

'The space race is alive and well, there are more players, more money, more enthusiasm, and the prize?
Possibly the greatest ever in human endeavour'.



12 x 60 MINS: FACTUAL SERIES

**BLIZZARD
ROAD**
PRODUCTIONS
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THE RACE TO THE RED PLANET

The Race To The Red Planet is a series that looks deeply into how we have reached the present position of space travel, and how this will drive the planning of a journey to Mars.

The series will research and explore each of the main missions to Mars, starting from the 1940's with Wernher Von Braun's 'The Mars Project'. His plan involved the launching of over 1000 spacecraft to colonise the planet. Absurd as it sounds, it did kick-start the race to the planet of Mars.

Each mission will be examined through original documents, sketches, photos and interviews with those directly involved. Experts in the field of Mars exploration will be interviewed as well as showing the audience some of the historical artefacts from the early stages of space travel and the current situation across the globe.

EXAMPLE PROJECTS

Project Orion was the US's first mission to Mars. It relied on using atomic energy to propel the craft. It began in 1957 but ended early in 1965 after the formation of the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Tests were conducted and early models of the craft were built.

The Toulouse based International Space University proposed a crew of 8 travelling to Mars in a nuclear powered craft with rotated artificial gravity, the mission did not eventuate, but it did open the door for European nations to join the race.

The Mars - 500 Project was a joint venture between the space agencies of Russia and Europe. The experiment involved simulating a 520 day crewed journey to Mars. The volunteers came from all walks of life and included astronauts, doctors and scientists. The successful experiment yielded much about what we know of interplanetary travel and its effects on humans.

The Space X Mars ITS and BFR (Big Falcon Rocket) are essential developments of Elon Musk's plans to colonise Mars. The project is underway with construction almost completed and the first manned flight to Mars is scheduled for 2024.

To date 10 spacecraft have already landed on Mars, the planet is being mapped, and the essential services for human survival are being discovered and invented. The first human on Mars is not that far away, and it is likely to happen within the next ten years. The Race To Mars investigates how we have come this far and what is next. The technology and people who will make the journey possible can be traced back almost 100 years, the adventure is far from over.



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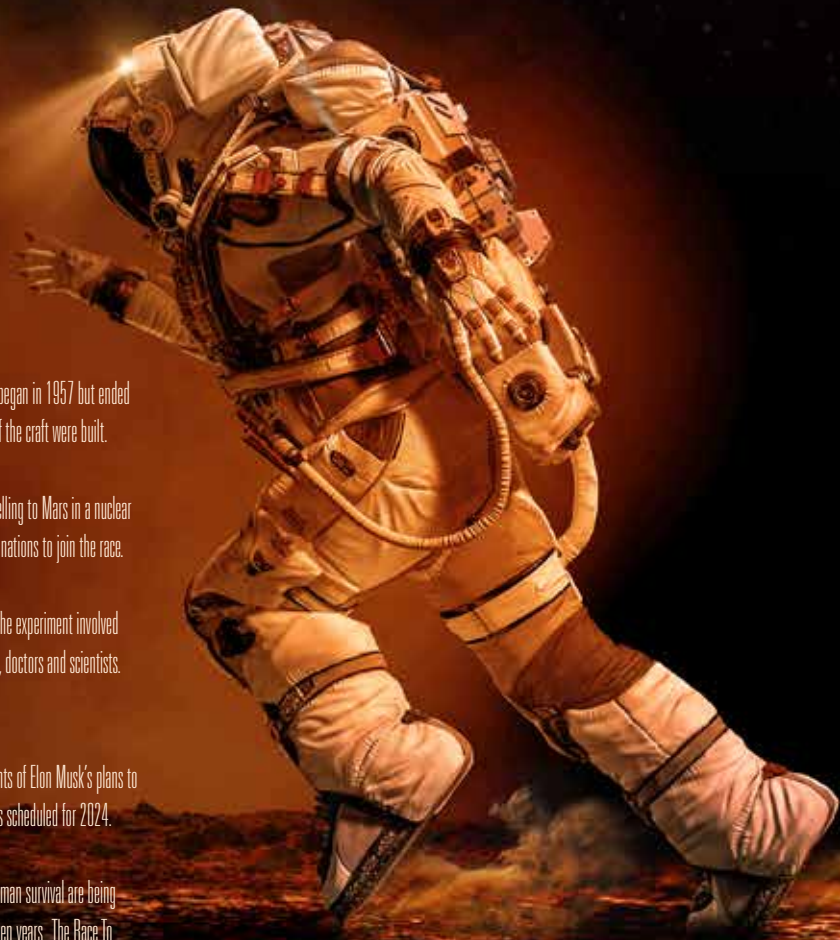
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