Humans are expected to start settling on Mars within the next 20 years. How will you go about colonizing Mars? What are the important considerations and how will you prioritize them to ensure sustainable human presence on the planet?

Aksh Goyal

2021TT11119

tt1211119@iitd.ac.in

6239330822

v.nnd.2015.06

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- How will you raise funds for this colonization? Additionally, how will you strategize your budget, and what trade-offs will you make?
- What are the problems you foresee during your colonization on Mars?
- Give innovative ideas or solutions to solve these problems
- How would you measure the success of your colonization? What potential risks do you foresee with your solution, and how would you mitigate them?

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Objective: Strategically Establish a Sustainable Human Colony on Mars

Why Colonize Mars?

Primary Reason

Having a self-sustaining colony on Mars acts as a "**Planetary Insurance Policy**" against disasters that could cause mass extinction by natural disasters (super-volcano eruptions, asteroid impacts) or human-made disasters (nuclear war, climate change)

Why Mars and not any other Planet: Feasibility of human survival, proximity and economic opportunities

Secondary Reasons

- ❑ **Resource Utilization and Economic Opportunities:** leveraging Martian resources triggers an off-Earth economy that can provide new wealth and resources for humanity
- ❑ **Combating Overpopulation and Resource Scarcity:** potential solution to the growing strain on Earth's natural resources
- ❑ **Expanding Human Knowledge and Technological Innovation:** Space exploration has historically driven technological innovation (e.g., GPS, telecom-unications, medical devices), and Mars colonization can continue this trend.

Presumptions:

Mars has become a liveable planet due to technological advancement.

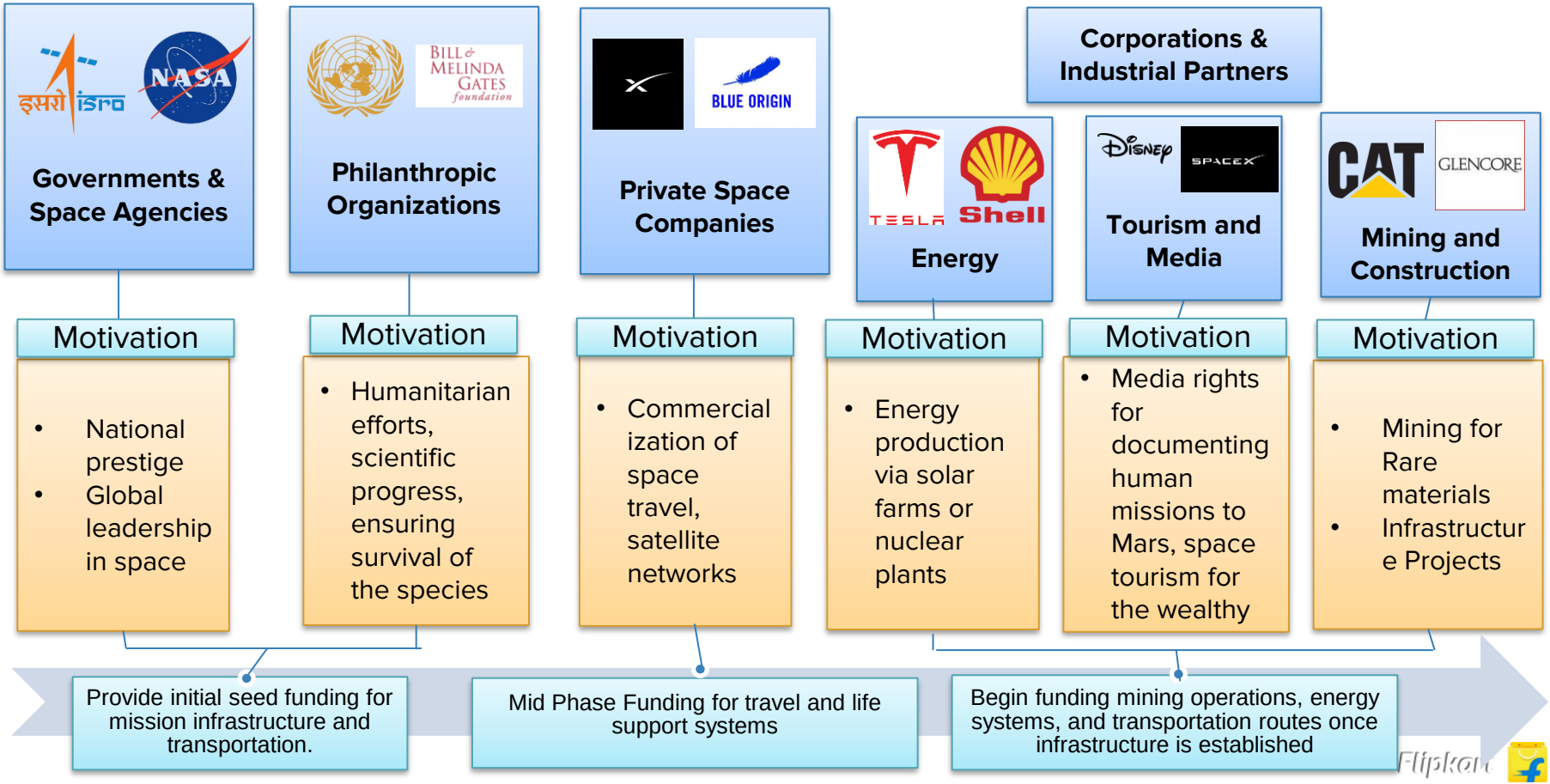
Technologies figured out:

- **O2 Production**: Extracting O2 from Mars atmosphere
  O2 production: Source
- **Food Production on Mars**: Only agricultural as meat is inefficient due to animal survival challenge. Food: Source
- **Energy Production**: Solar and Nuclear predominantly Energy: Source
- **Water Production**: Extracted from ice form Water Extraction Tech: Source
- **Transportation**: Starship (can carry upto 150 metric tons)
  Starship specifications: Source
- **Shelter on Mars**: Radiations protection and health maintenance
  Shelter: Source
- **Communication**: Satellite and Laser communication (Intra and Inter) Communication: Communication: Source

We, as **SpaceX** (spacecraft manufacturer)—the first organization to land on Mars—have already established a base, with a team of scientists and robots currently residing on the planet.

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Funding Strategy for Mars Colonization



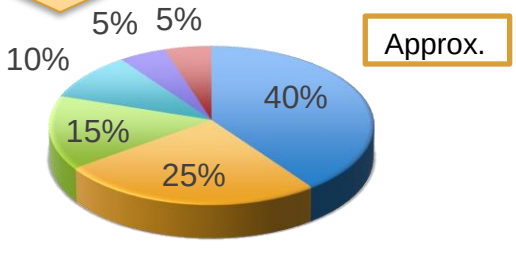
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Budgeting for Mars Colonization: Prioritization and Trade-offs

Allocation

- **Max Budget: Transportation** as it is the foundation and requires significant upfront investment.
- Habitat, Health and Resource Extraction will sustain human race on Mars
- R&D and Governance will facilitate growth

Source



Trade-offs

Survival	Prioritizing life support and habitat in the short-term vs. industrial development for future expansion (mining, manufacturing)	Expansion
Costly transportation	Huge upfront costs for sending resources from Earth vs. investing in **resource utilization** for long-term self-sufficiency	Local Resources
Infrastructure	More immediate funding allocated to **infrastructure** (building habitats and energy production) vs. **R&D** for future growth	R & D
HealthCare	While healthcare ensures survival, industrial development accelerates growth and profitability	Industrial Expansion

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20 Year Plan: Phased Human Settlement

Phase 1: Initial Expansion (Years 1-5)
- **People**: 50-100 specialists
- **Key Focus**: Build initial infrastructure, life support systems, and test local resource utilization.
- **Roles**: Scientists, engineers, robotics specialists, and life support experts.
- **Goal**: Establish a stable base for long-term habitation.

Phase 2: Scaling Infrastructure (Years 6-10)
- **People**: 300-500 settlers
- **Key Focus**: Expand infrastructure, local manufacturing, and sustainable food production.
- **Roles**: Agricultural experts, engineers, energy specialists, healthcare professionals.
- **Goal**: Build self-sustaining systems for a colony of 1,000+.

Phase 3: Developing Industry & Civilian Settlement (Years 11-15)
- **People**: 1,500-2,500 settlers
- **Key Focus**: Build industries (mining, manufacturing), grow the civilian population.
- **Roles**: Business leaders, skilled workers, educators, and governance experts.
- **Goal**: Transition from a scientific outpost to a thriving colony with an economy and governance.

Phase 4: Establishing a Martian City (Years 16-20)
- **People**: 5,000-10,000 settlers
- **Key Focus**: Create a self-sustaining Martian city with governance, trade, and a diverse population.
- **Roles**: Civilians, healthcare experts, leaders, cultural developers, and policy makers.
- **Goal**: Establish a full-fledged, permanent city with its own economy, culture, and governance.



Year 1-5 (50-100) Specialists → Year 6-10 (300-500) Settlers → Year 10-15 (1500-2500) Settlers → Year 16-20 (5000-10000) Settlers

Source

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Problems and Solutions for Mars Colonization

Problems	Solutions
Human Resource Interest • Attracting skilled scientists, engineers, and settlers for long-term Martian missions as it involves physical risks, long-term isolation.	**Incentives for Martian Settlers** • **Competitive Compensation Packages**: long-term wealth-building opportunities (e.g., shares in space companies, mining rights). • **Media & Fame**: potential fame from involvement in **pioneering human space settlement**. • **Training Programs**: Offering **Mars-specific education** in universities “Mars Academies” to create expertise.
Expensive Proposition: Risk of Failure • Inherent risks of mission failure (technical malfunctions, habitat breaches). Investors and governments may hesitate to invest given the high potential for loss.	**Risk Mitigation** • **Phased Deployment**: Start with **small-scale, low-cost missions** (robotic missions, unmanned cargo delivery) to test technologies before fully committing to human colonization. • **Risk Pooling and Insurance**: Create **space mission insurance markets**, allowing stakeholders to **pool risks** and reduce potential financial losses
Life Risk: Health and Safety Hazards • Small mistakes or system failures could lead to fatalities. • Psychological and physical strain on astronauts during the journey	**Efficient Testing and Medical Infrastructure** • **Mars Simulator** on earth for efficient testing of all tools for life support on Mars • Investing in Medical needs and Infrastructure

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Success Metrics and Pitfalls

Success Metrics



Population Growth

- **Target**: Achieve a growing, stable Martian population over 20 years.
  - Year 1: **100 people** (scientists, engineers, and initial settlers).
  - Year 10: **1,000 people** (mixed professionals and settlers).
  - Year 20: **10,000 people** (self-sustaining community)



Economic Viability and Revenue Generation

- **Target:** Generate sustainable revenue streams from Martian industries by Year 10.
  - Martian **mining of rare metals** (e.g., platinum, lithium).
  - **Space tourism industry**: Provide experiences for Earth tourists.
  - Selling Mars-generated innovations and patents.



Quality of Life & Social Stability

- **Target:** High quality of life with safe, mentally and physically healthy
  - Measure happiness and **mental health** through surveys and monitoring.
  - Safety protocols and **zero fatalities** in Year 5.
  - Establishment of **Martian culture** (arts, recreation, community).

Some Real Aspects of the Problem Ignored



Mental Health and Social Well Being

- Psychological strain of long-term isolation and confinement on Mars



Natural Calamities and Dust Storms

- Low temperatures, and potential ground instability
- Mars experiences dust storms that can last for weeks.



Long Travel Time to Mars

- The current travel time to Mars is 6 to 9 months which is too long for sustained missions



Governance and Legal Issues

- Political and legal disputes could arise over the ownership of land and resources

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