

Mars 2020 Rover Enters Its Final Year of Engineering Before Launch

The countdown has begun for the last year of development before the Mars 2020 launches. The launch window opens on July 17, 2020, and runs until August 5, 2020, when the rover will be launched on its journey to Mars from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

Engineers at NASA have been hard at work on the rover, installing its camera, wheels, and robotic arm, and testing the spacecraft which will carry the rover's ability to withstand the extreme environment of space. And progress on finalizing the rover is right on track, according to NASA.

[Read the full story.](#)

NSPE Leads Coalition To Protect Professional Licensure

NSPE bolstered its efforts to protect professional licensing with the creation of the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL), a new coalition of advanced professions dedicated to informing lawmakers and the public of the importance of rigorous professional licensing standards.

In this partnership, NSPE is leading the charge to educate policymakers on the importance of maintaining standards for complex technical professions like engineering that have a clear impact on public health, safety, and welfare. In addition to its ongoing efforts to defend the PE license, NSPE spearheaded this coalition to ensure that professional engineers and other advanced professions are represented amid the growing debate around licensing laws.

In its leadership position with ARPL, NSPE will highlight how professional licensing protects the public by ensuring a baseline of proven qualification and expertise that protects consumers from unqualified practitioners. This public awareness campaign aims to counter the anti-licensing interests that threaten public safety.

Joining NSPE in this coalition are the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of CPAs, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards,

the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

[Learn more about ARPL at responsiblelicensing.org.](https://responsiblelicensing.org)

The How and Why of NSPE

NSPE's House of Delegates has approved a new strategic plan for the organization, examining both its *how* and *why*.

A year-long project with extensive stakeholder involvement, the work illustrated the desire for both continuity and change for the Society.

The new plan comprises a new vision, mission, values, and goals, starting from the idea of “a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals.”

And now the real work begins—by the NSPE board, other leaders, and individual members.

[Learn more about the new strategic plan from Executive Director Mark Golden.](#)

'Dignity, Respect, Fairness, and Without Discrimination'

Since the 1940s, NSPE has provided members with advice on the proper ethical behavior of engineers. Now that advice explicitly includes an obligation to antidiscrimination and fairness.

During NSPE's Professional Engineers Conference in July, the House of Delegates unanimously accepted the following addition to the “professional obligations” section of the Code: “Engineers shall treat all persons with dignity, respect, fairness, and without discrimination.” The House of Delegates is made up of representatives from all state and territorial societies.

The Board of Ethical Review offered this amendment to the Code based on a review of cases, reported complaints, observed incidents, and ethics code changes made by other professional and technical societies. Those organizations include the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, IEEE, and the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

This change to the Code of Ethics also builds upon a policy adopted by NSPE last year calling for a “diverse and welcoming environment for everyone interested in the licensed practice of engineering.”

[Access the NSPE Code of Ethics.](#)

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