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Taber[®] Industries Critical to Mars Exploration

Taber[®] Industries involvement with space exploration efforts continued as NASA launched the first of two unique Mars Exploration Rovers this past week. In order for the rovers to travel more than 311 million miles and safely reach Mars, Taber's pressure transducer will play an integral role in the performance monitoring of CFC-12, a fluid similar to freon used in the cruise stage Heat Rejection System (HRS).



As the spacecraft journeys towards the red planet and critical procedures and equipment are tested in preparation for arrival, a large amount of power and heat will be generated within the rover body. To maintain temperature levels and protect the flight computer and telecommunications hardware, a mechanically pumped fluid system was incorporated in the cruise stage of the craft. Taber's transducer will ensure the CFC-12 is kept between -7° and 0° Celsius (19° and 32° Fahrenheit) throughout the flight. As the spacecraft reaches Mars, fifteen minutes before atmospheric entry, the protective aeroshell encasing the lander and rover

will separate from the cruise stage, at which point Taber's role will be complete. The transducer will ultimately impact Mars.

Since 1955, Taber Industries has been manufacturing pressure transducers. With a focus on critical pressure measurement applications, Taber was involved with the initial Apollo spacecraft launch in 1965. Since then, the company has been involved with various life support and flight hardware in space, aviation and military vehicle applications.

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