

Viking – the first mission to successfully land on Mars

1:24 scale

The Viking project consisted of launches of two separate spacecraft to Mars, Viking 1, launched on 20 August 1975, and Viking 2, launched on 9 September 1975. Viking 1 landed on Mars on 20 July 1976; Viking 2 on 3 Sep.

The Viking landers took the first pictures from the Martian surface, determined the composition of the Martian atmosphere and soil at the landing site, and yielded ambiguous results about the possibility of life on Mars.

Viking 1 operated until 13 Nov 1982 when contact was lost; Viking 2 was shut down on 11 Apr 1980 when its batteries failed.





