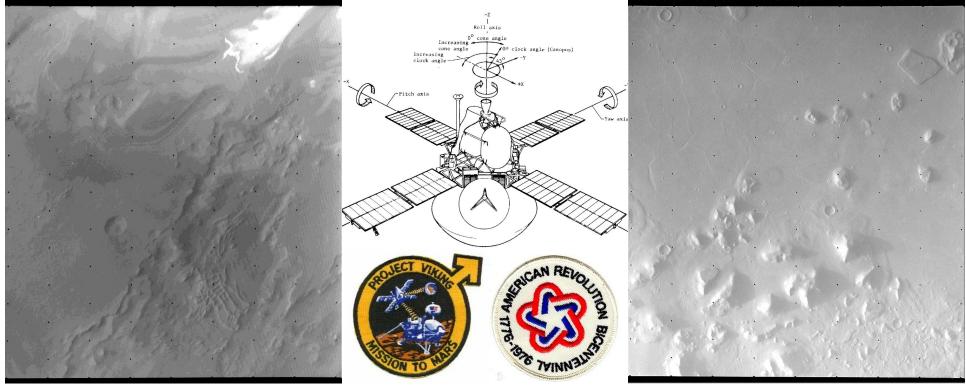
<u>Viking Enroute Spacecraft – 1</u>:24 scale



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 entered Martian orbit in June 1976 and dispatched its lander to the Martian surface on 20 July 1976. Viking 2 entered orbit in August 1976, landed on 3 Sep. The primary mission objectives were to obtain high resolution images of the Martian surface, characterize the structure and composition of the atmosphere and surface, and search for evidence of life. The two Viking orbiters photographed the entire surface of Mars at a resolution of 150 to 300 meters, and selected areas at 8 meters. Orbiter observations consisted of radio-science, imaging, thermal, and water-vapor measurements used to assist landing-site selection and the study of the dynamic and physical characteristics of Mars and its atmosphere. On 7 August 1980 Viking 1 Orbiter was running low on attitude control gas and its orbit was raised to prevent impact with Mars and possible contamination until the year 2019. Operations ended on 17 August 1980. Viking 2 operations included close approaches to Deimos in October 1977. The orbiter developed a leak in its propulsion system so it was placed in a higher orbit and turned off on 25 July 1978.

