

# TARDEC Ground Vehicle Conference Coming This Week to Troy Marriott

By Gerald Scott

After a two-year run in Dearborn, GVSETS is returning to the Troy Marriott this month as a more centralized location.

Organizers say that registration space is filling up and exhibit space is sold out for the fourth Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium – GVSETS – is taking place Aug. 14-16 at the Detroit Marriott Troy.

GVSETS – which is hosted by the National Defense Industrial Association's Michigan Chapter with support from the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) and the Engineering Society of Detroit – returns to Troy after two years in Dearborn and is Michigan's most significant defense-related gathering. Once again, GVSETS features an impressive lineup of scheduled speakers and serves as a gateway for public-private technology discussions and project development. In addition, the NDIA-Michigan will be unveiling and detailing the new Defense Automotive Manufacturers' Consortium (DAM-C).

GVSETS keynote speakers include Dale Ormond, director, U.S. Army, Research, Development and Engineering Command, and Maj. Gen. Nickolas Justice, Assistant Military Deputy Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology).

Panels on several topics will also be featured, including Successes in Technology Transition, International Technology and a PEO question-and-answer session. Participating in several of the panels on the morning of the 14th is David Gorsich, chief sci-



David Gorsich

entist at U.S. Army TARDEC.

In addition, new TARDEC Director Dr. Paul Rogers will make his first comments after recently being named to the position.

According to Chuck Prikopa, GVSETS chairperson, the goal of the event is to inspire participants to work together to create the types of technical breakthroughs that warfighters need to dominate the battlefield and return home safely.

"We are really excited to bring several new panel discussions to GVSETS this year," he remarked. "The open discussions with government and industry are a valuable tool for furthering technology to support those who protect and serve."

# Life on Mars? NASA's Curiosity Will Tell All

PASADENA, Calif. – NASA's most advanced Mars rover Curiosity has landed on the Red Planet.

The one-ton rover, hanging by ropes from a rocket backpack, touched down onto Mars last week to end a 36-week flight and begin a two-year investigation.

The Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) spacecraft that carried Curiosity succeeded in every step of the most complex landing ever attempted on Mars, including the final severing of the bridle cords and flyaway maneuver of the rocket backpack.

"Today, the wheels of Curiosity have begun to blaze the trail for human footprints on Mars," said NASA Administrator Charles Bolden.

"Curiosity, the most sophisticated rover ever built, is now on the surface of the Red Planet, where it will seek to answer age-old questions about whether life ever existed on Mars – or if the planet can sustain life in the future.

"This is an amazing achievement, made possible by a team of scientists and engineers from around the world and led by the extraordinary men and women of NASA and our Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"President Obama has laid out a bold vision for sending humans to Mars in the mid-2030s, and to-



Artist's concept of the NASA rover Curiosity on the Martian surface.

day's landing marks a significant step toward achieving this goal."

Curiosity landed at 10:32 p.m. Aug. 5, PDT, (1:32 a.m. EDT Aug. 6) near the foot of a mountain three miles tall and 96 miles in diameter inside Gale Crater. During a nearly two-year prime mission, the rover will investigate whether the region ever offered conditions favorable for microbial life.

"The Seven Minutes of Terror has turned into the Seven Minutes of Triumph," said NASA Associate Administrator for Science John Grunsfeld.

"My immense joy in the success of this mission is matched

only by overwhelming pride I feel for the women and men of the mission's team."

Curiosity returned its first view of Mars, a wide-angle scene of rocky ground near the front of the rover. More images are anticipated in the next several days.

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