



## Mars City: Human missions to space colony will start in 2024, Elon Musk says

Humans could travel to Mars as early as 2024 with the aim of building a colony on the red planet, Elon Musk has claimed.

Musk's space exploration company SpaceX has laid out<sup>1</sup> ambitious plans to establish a base on Mars after it unveiled a reusable rocket that it said could travel at speeds of up to 27,000 kilometres per hour.

SpaceX said it would be able to establish a base on the moon and fly two cargo missions to Mars in 2022 that would be able to find water and place power and life support infrastructure. The first human travellers would depart in 2024, where they would be able to set up a solar-powered plant<sup>2</sup> that would produce propellant<sup>3</sup> to return them to earth. Crucially, the rockets would land vertically, meaning they can be re-used for other missions. [...]

Over time a habitable space city would evolve on the planet, that would become "a really nice place to be", he said.

◆ James Titcomb, *The Telegraph*, September 29, 2017

1. explained 2. place where energy is produced 3. fuel



◆ Elon Musk, the billionaire and engineer who founded SpaceX in 2002.

### Culture Tip

**Elon Musk** was born in 1971 and is South African, American and Canadian. He is an entrepreneur, investor and engineer and has co-founded very famous companies like PayPal, Tesla and SpaceX. His goal is to change the world by reducing global warming with sustainable energy, and reduce the risk of human extinction by establishing a human settlement on Mars.

1 Focus on the picture and the title of the text. Identify Musk's goals.

2 Read the text. "Would" and "could" are used several times. Make suppositions on what they indicate.

3 Draw a simple diagram. Specify the destinations, the dates, the vehicles and what they will transport.



4 In your opinion, say what SpaceX will be able to do. Explain what will be easy and what will be harder to accomplish.

