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COMMONS

JPL Stories

Parachutes on Mars: The Mystery of the Supersonic Jellyfish

**Presented by Anita Sengupta,
Supersonic Parachutes on Mars Project Manager, Cold
Atom Laboratory Astronomy and Physics Directorate**

Wednesday

March 13, 2013

4:30 - 5:30 PM

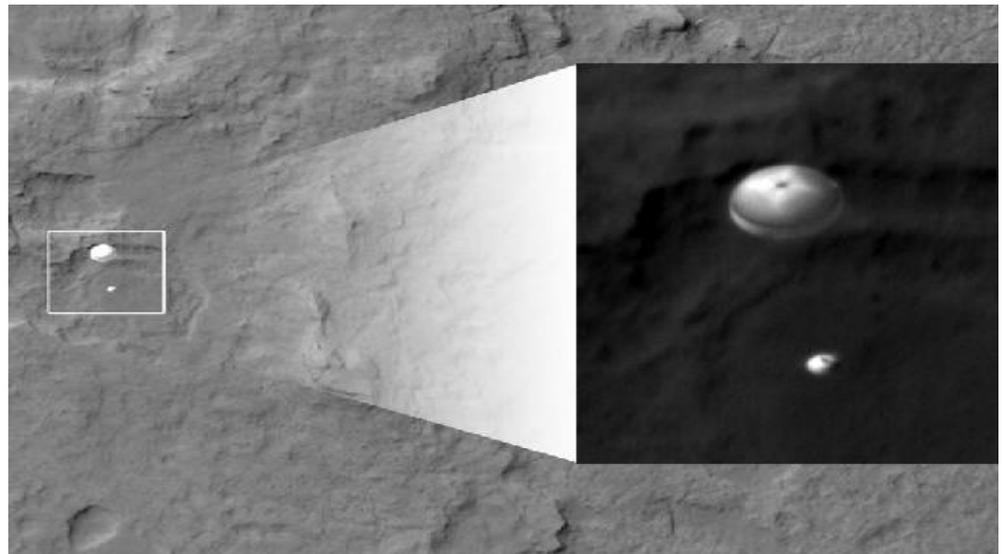
west end of

Building 111

Room 104

Everyone is
Welcome

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Due to the large size of Curiosity and precise landing requirements of the mission, the MSL EDL system required a single 70 ft diameter parachute, deployed at up to two times the speed of sound on Mars. For decades it was a mystery why supersonic parachutes experienced violent oscillations above a certain speed. It was critical to the mission that the super-sized parachute would survive and perform as designed, necessitating an answer to this mystery once and for all. Come learn how supersonic parachutes behave on Mars and the story behind the supersonic parachute qualification for MSL.