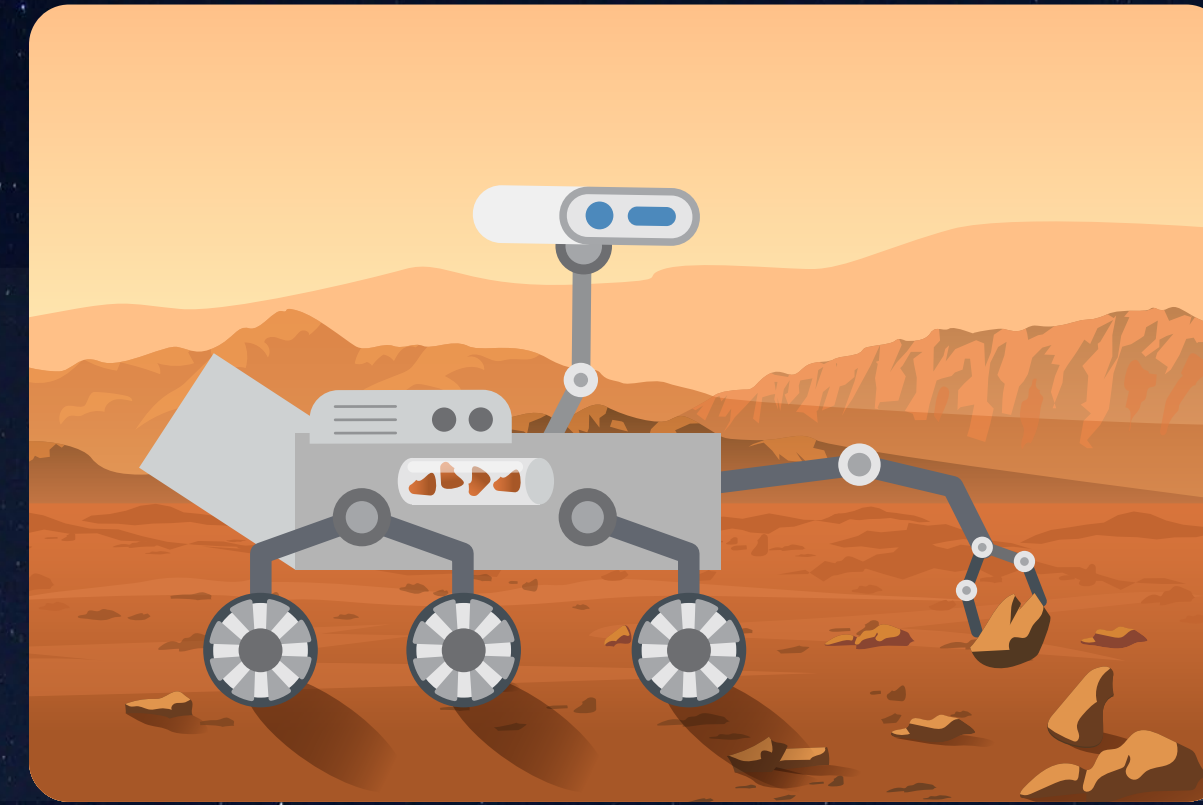
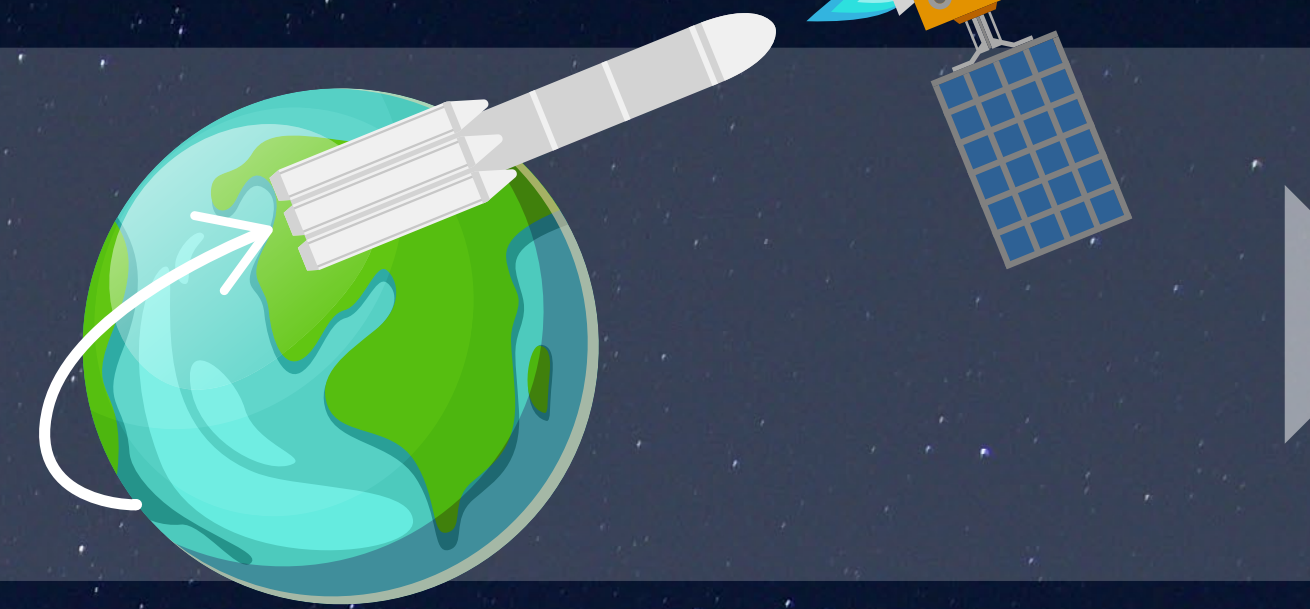


Is there life on Mars?

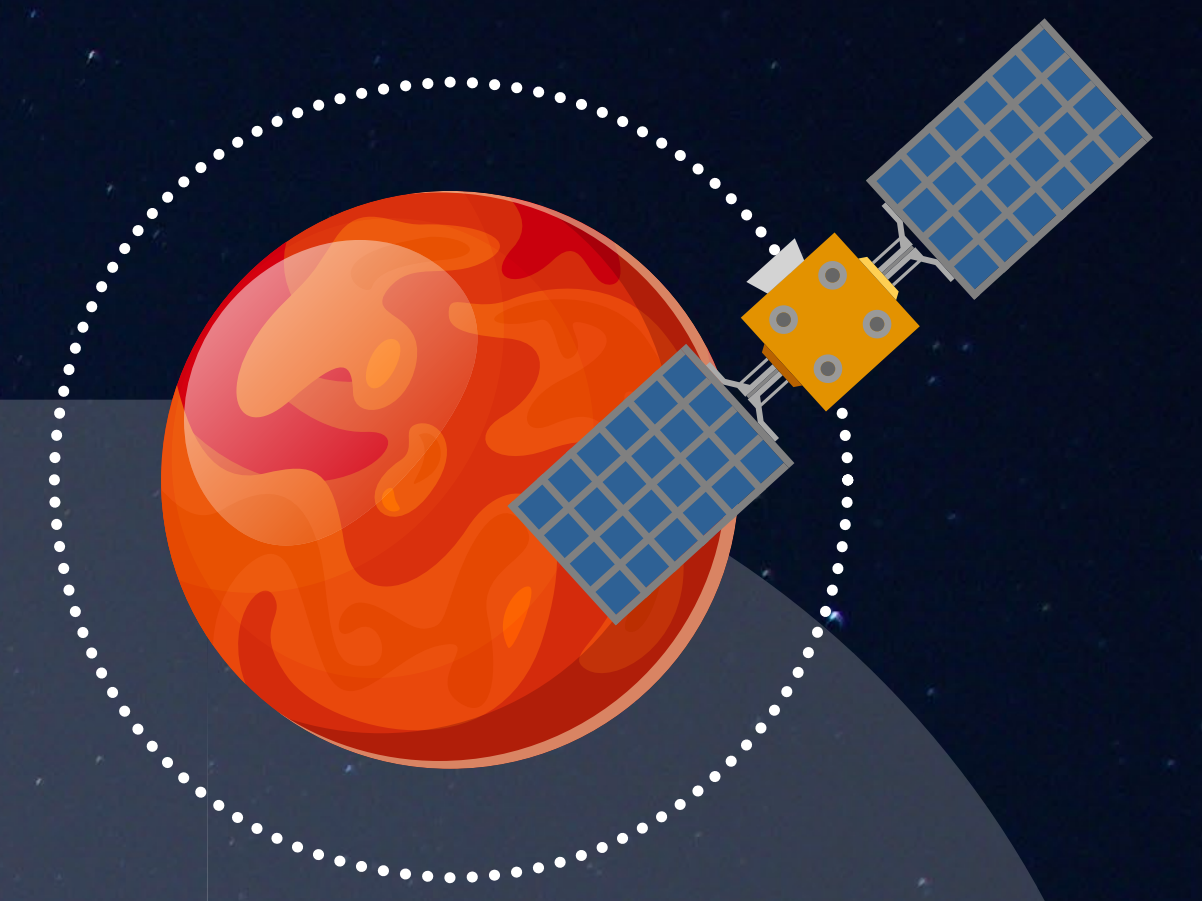
In the early 2030s, the Airbus-built Earth Return Orbiter will bring back the first ever rock samples from Mars. This is how it works.



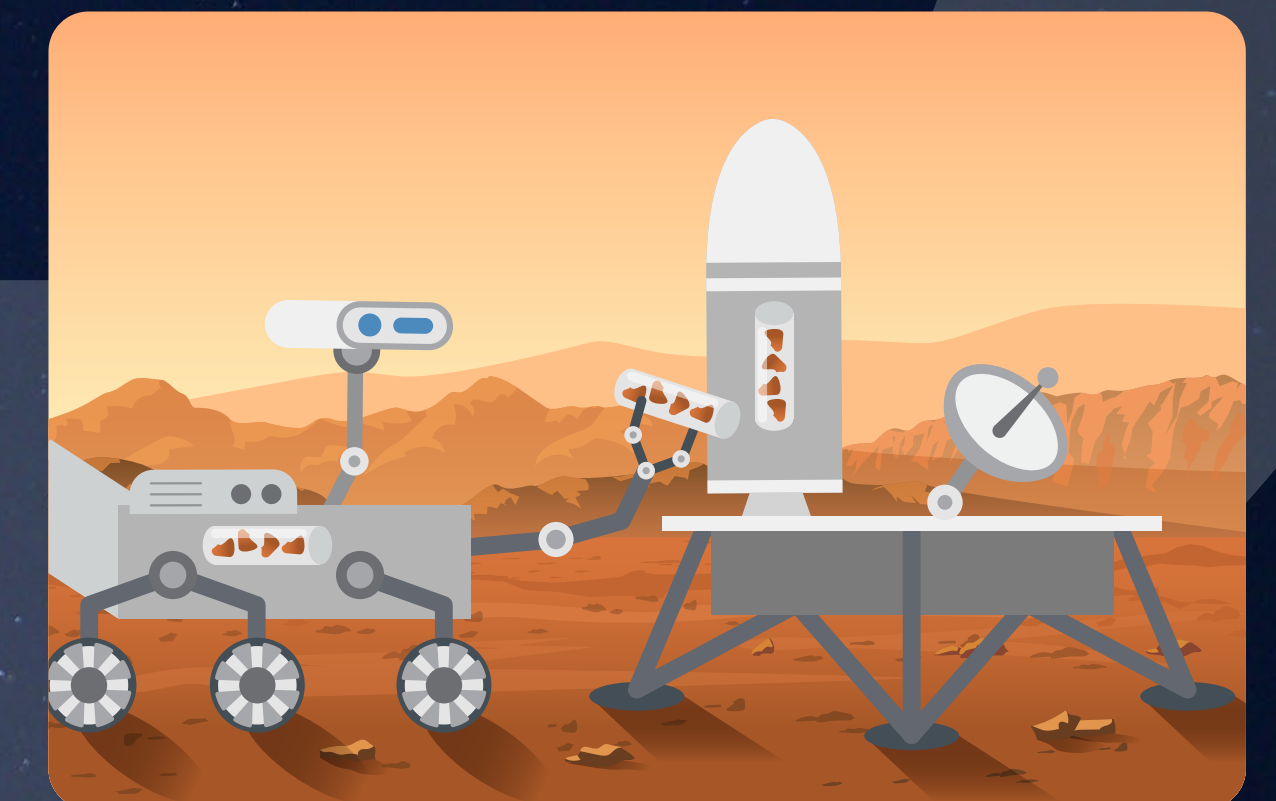
NASA's Perseverance rover is currently **selecting promising Mars rock samples**, collecting them and storing them in its belly.



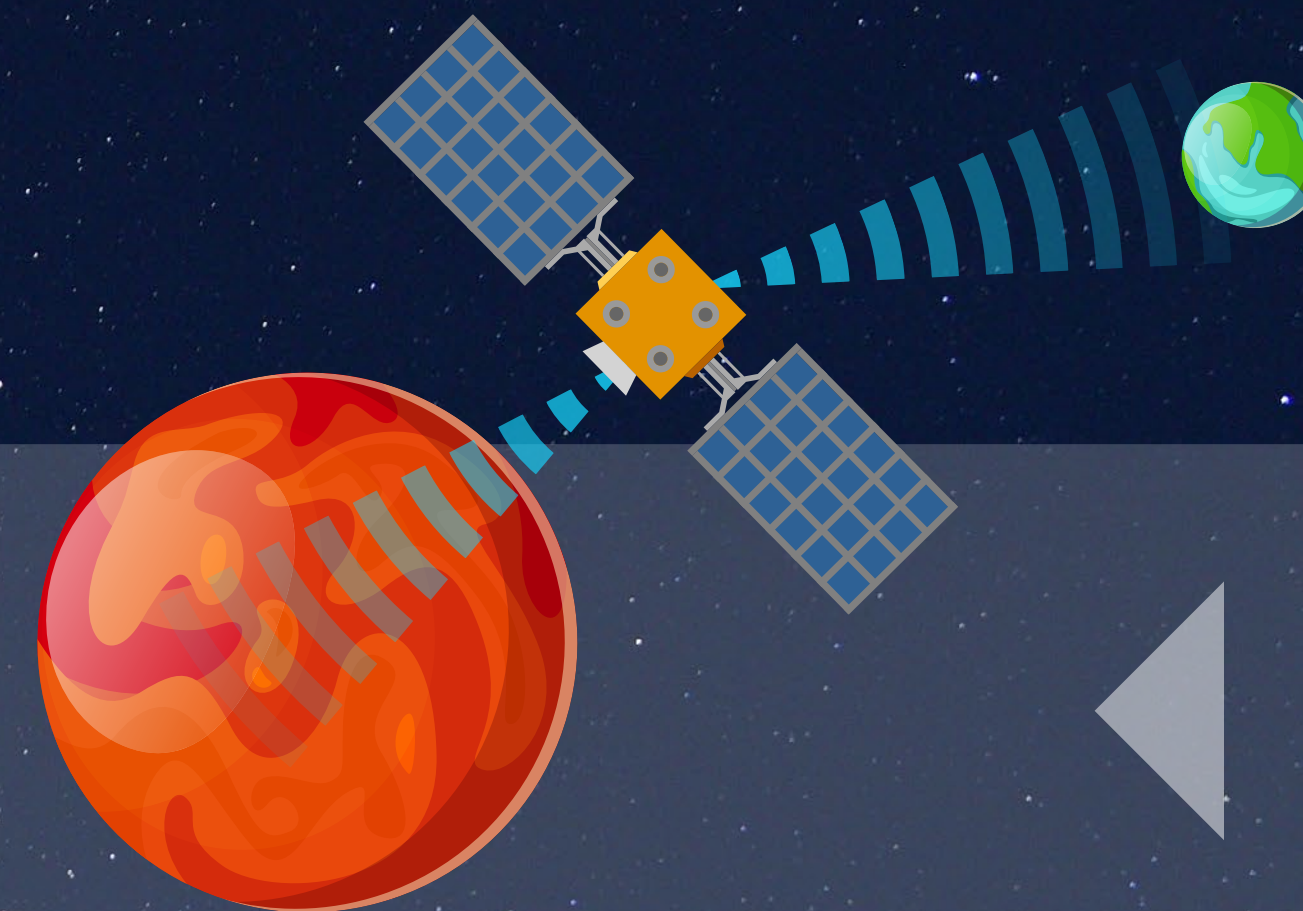
Airbus's **Earth Return Orbiter (ERO)** takes off to Mars onboard an Ariane 64 in 2027.



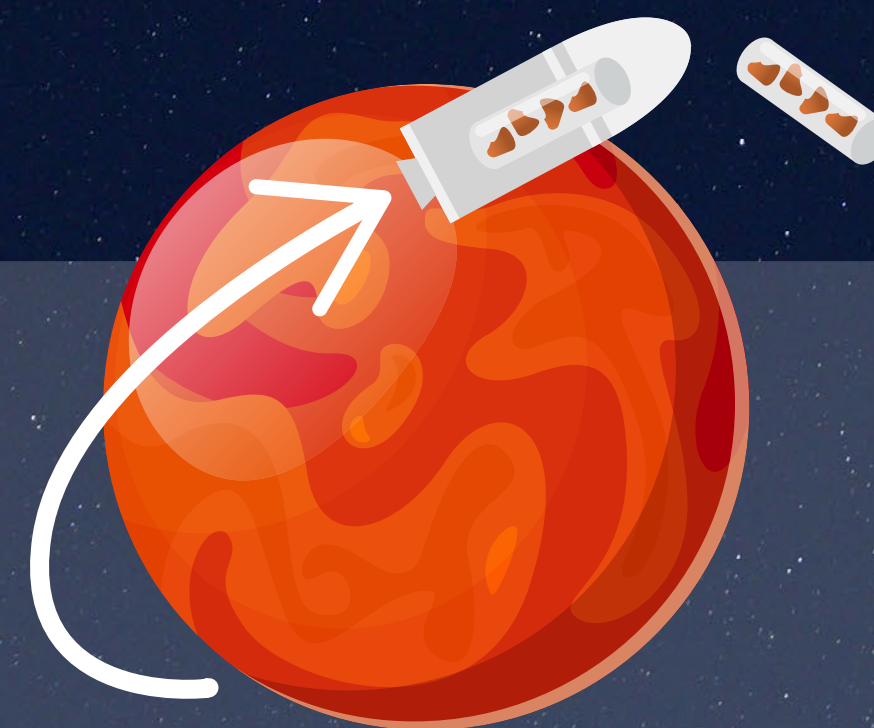
ERO reaches its **operational Mars orbit** in 2030.



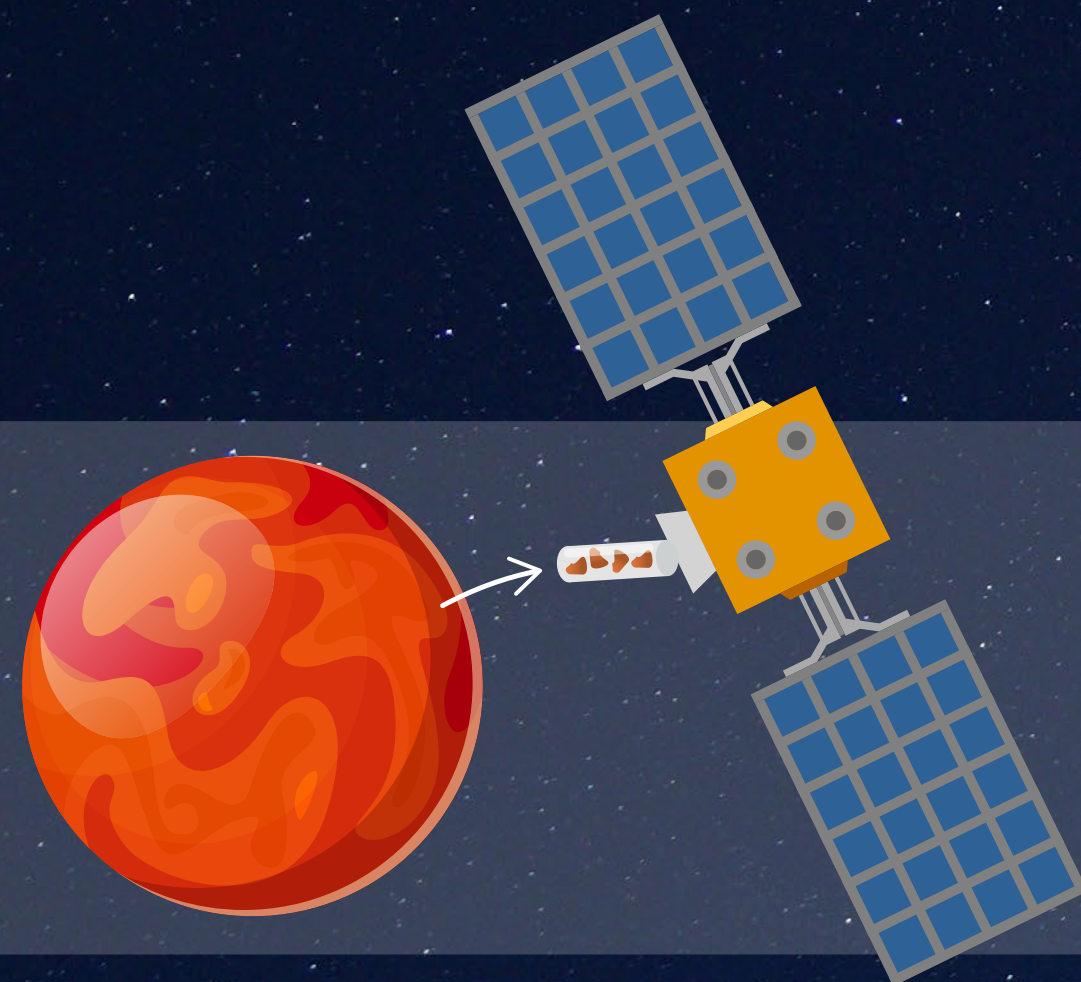
Perseverance delivers the rock samples to the **Mars Ascent Vehicle**.



ERO communicates with the Mars Ascent Vehicle and the control station on Earth to plan the upcoming activities:



Mars Ascent Vehicle launches into Mars orbit and **releases the Mars samples**.



ERO captures the capsule with the rock samples.



ERO flies back to Earth.



A landing capsule **deposits the Martian rock samples** in the Utah desert in 2033.



In **several international laboratories**, scientists analyse the samples. With some luck they will find out if there is life on Mars.



AIRBUS