

FIRST IMAGE

Colour view and perspective view – 14 January 2004



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This first spectacular stereoscopic colour picture was taken on 14 January 2004

The picture shows a portion of a 1700 km long and 65 km wide swath, which was taken in south-north direction across the Grand Canyon of Mars (Valles Marineris).

It is the first image of this size that shows the surface of Mars in high resolution (12 metres per pixel). The total area of the image on the Martian surface (top left corner) corresponds to 120 000 km².

The lower part of the picture shows the same region in perspective view as if seen from a low-flying aircraft.

One looks at a landscape that has been predominantly shaped by the erosional action of water. Millions of cubic kilometres of rock have been removed, and the surface features seen now such as mountain ranges, valleys and mesas, have been formed.

Details of the Martian soil - 14 January 2004



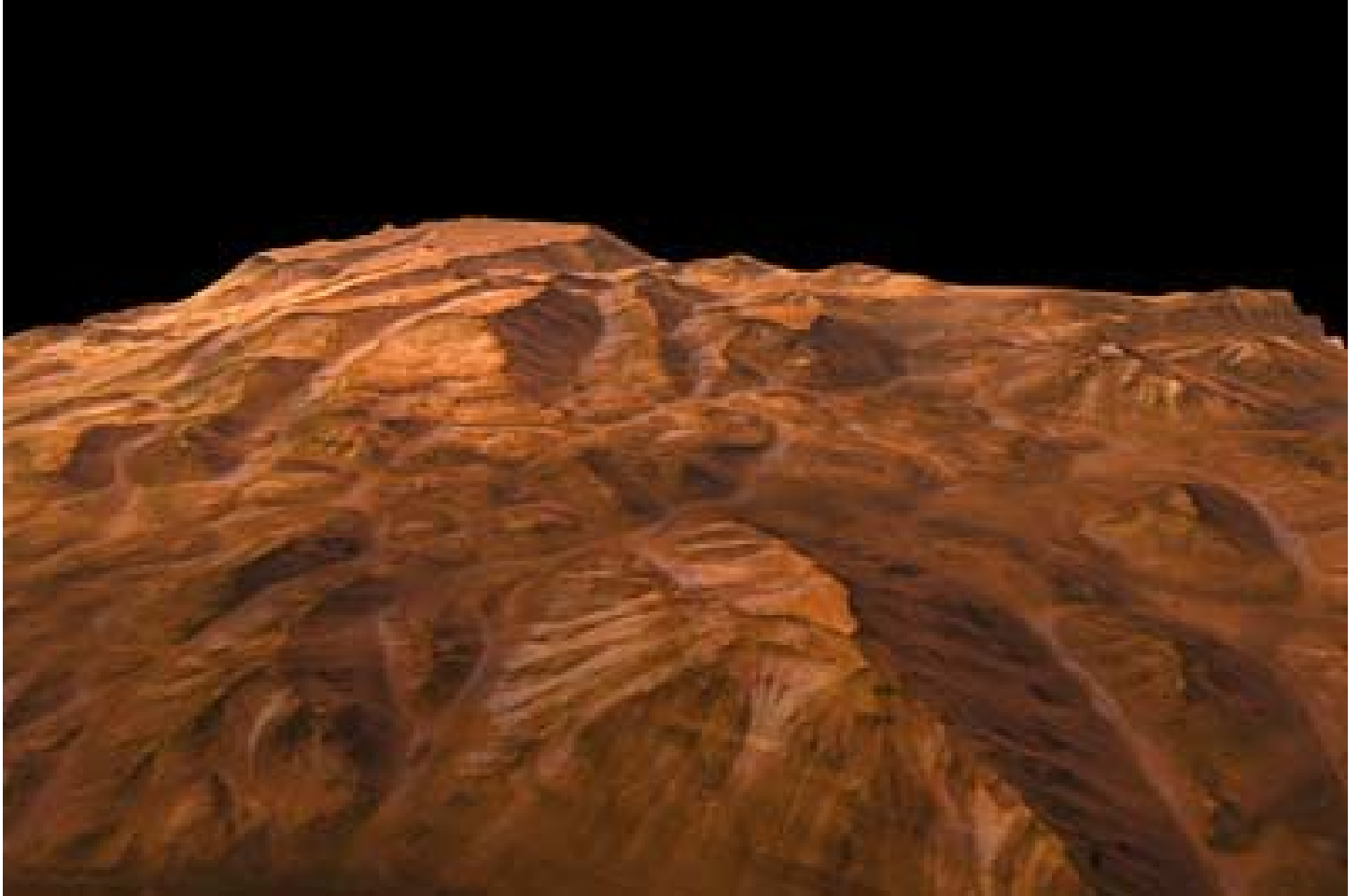
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This is an enlarged part of the former image.

One looks at a landscape that has been predominantly shaped by the erosional action of water. Millions of cubic kilometres of rock have been removed, and the surface features seen now such as mountain ranges, valleys and mesas, have been formed.

Perspective view of the ground of Mars – 14 January 2004



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This image extract shows the same area, seen in perspective in « 3D », as if it was taken from an airplane flying at low altitude.