

PRESS RELEASE

August 20, 2003

For Further Information

Contact: Kathi Dimmock
Director of Marketing & Sales
706-821-0607 or 800-325-5445, X5581
dimmockk@nscdiscovery.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTER'S FORT DISCOVERY SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PERSONAL MARS ROVER PROJECT

Augusta, GA -- The National Science Center's Fort Discovery has been selected by Carnegie Mellon University as one of only three science centers nationwide to participate in the Personal Mars Rover Project. The Personal Mars Rover Project will be exhibited at Fort Discovery beginning in January, 2004, concurrent with the first landing of NASA's Mars Exploration Rovers.

The National Science Center's Fort Discovery, along with the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and The Exploratorium in San Francisco, will be working directly with the Robotics Institute of Carnegie Mellon University to design an interactive exhibit that will accurately portray how NASA uses its exploration rovers to remotely gather scientific data and relay the findings back for analysis. NASA and Intel Corporation jointly sponsor the project.

The exhibit will feature a 100 sq. ft. Mars Landscape where participants will program the robotic rovers to perform exploration and discovery tasks, plan and execute paths to specific geographic features, simulated analysis and taking measurements. Plans also include having the exhibit web-accessible via a web-cam connection and a complete educational program guide will be developed for use in the classroom.

###

Special Note: Joe Edwards, CEO of the National Science Center and former NASA Astronaut will be available for interviews. Please contact the Marketing Department at 707-821-0607 to make arrangements.