ROB MANNING

Rob Manning is the Mars Exploration Program chief engineer at NASA’s Jet Propulsions Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., where he is responsible for ensuring that current and future missions to Mars will work. Prior to this new role, he was the Flight Systems Engineering manager as well as the Entry Descent and Landing manager for the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) project that landed twin rovers on the surface of Mars in early 2004.

Before MER, Manning was the chief engineer for the successful 1997 Mars Pathfinder mission where he was also responsible for entry, descent and landing. Prior to Pathfinder he developed computers and fault tolerant electronic systems for JPL’s deep space missions including the Cassini mission to Saturn and the Galileo mission to Jupiter. Manning has been working at JPL since 1980.

As a result of his adventures at JPL, Manning has received two NASA medals and is in the Aviation Week Magazine Space Laureate Hall of Fame in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. In 2004, SpaceNews named him as one of 100 people who made a difference in civil, commercial and military space since 1989.

Manning is a graduate of Caltech (BS ’82) and Whitman College (BA ’80) where he studied math, physics, computer science and control systems. He makes his home in Pasadena with his wife Dominique and their eight year old daughter, Caline.