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NOTE TO EDITORS: Auburn University's News Tip Sheets are designed to provide media with links to AU faculty who are well-versed in or are engaged in research regarding current events or timely topics.

Auburn experts can address the logistics of space travel, specifically the requirements of a trip to Mars

As NASA and the United States government turn their sights toward space exploration, many Americans are curious about how successful space missions work and how rocket ships fly. Below are experts at Auburn University who can answer those questions.

VINAMRA AGRAWAL (334-844-5110; vza0013@auburn.edu) Assistant Professor, Aerospace Engineering. Agrawal has done extensive research to further understand how the materials that compose aircrafts like airplanes and satellites resist breakage under extremely high speeds. Additionally, in 2020, he was awarded a 3-year, \$408,000 National Science Foundation Grant, funding his research into discovering how to bridge the knowledge gaps created by the atomic and meter scales.

IMON CHAKRABORTY (334-844-6821; imonchakraborty@auburn.edu) Assistant Professor, Aerospace Engineering. Chakraborty, alongside another Auburn aerospace engineering professor, is currently assisting Transcend Air Corporation in developing its high-speed vertical takeoff and landing idea. He is the founder of the Vehicle Systems, Dynamics and Design Laboratory website, which has been awarded over \$1.5 million in federal funds by organizations like NASA since its founding in 2018.

LUKE MARZEN (334-844-3462; marzelj@auburn.edu) Geosciences Professor. Marzen can help provide insight into what the geography of Mars is like and on which part of the planet a rocket ship should land. He has experience with Geographic Object Based Image Analysis (GeOBIA), which combines aerial and satellite imagery with airborne and terrestrial LiDAR.

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