

# "AMADEE-24" Mars Analog Research Mission in Armenia came to an end

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YEREVAN, ARMENIA, April 19, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- "AMADEE-24" Flight crew, welcome back to the Blue planet!: The month-long "AMADEE-24" Mars Analog Mission marked its conclusion. Representing various space research institutions and agencies, over 250 scientists from 26 countries participated in the 14th international Mars Analog Mission.



"AMADEE-24" Mars Analog Research Mission in Armenia (c) Julia-ArmSpaceForum

"AMADEE-24" stands as a prestigious program in the field of analog space technology research, organized and implemented this year by the "Armenian Aerospace Agency" and the "Armenian Space Forum," with management overseen by the "Austrian Space Forum", held in Armash, Armenia with a three-year preparation.

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*Mher Mehrabyan*

“Being here today is one of the baby steps towards the human exploration of Mars. We are very proud that we were not the first to bring Space to Armenia for the first time: It has been integral to Armenian innovation culture many decades ago already. Whatever the path to Mars looks like, people will remember that one of the first steps was taken right here, in Armash,” mentioned Gernot Grömer, the director of the Austrian Space Forum.

It was the “Imaginary Mars” or “Armash Mars Analog Station,” where a team of highly trained analog astronauts isolated themselves to conduct 13 experiments with various rovers and robotics within almost a month, preparing for future human and robotic exploration missions to

Mars. The conducted experiments included Genes4Mars, Astronaut performance and health monitoring with biomarkers, Hort<sup>3</sup>Space focused on development of innovative and autonomous cultivation systems for future long-term space missions. Other experiments were IAQHabitat, FarSide, Staying Alive, PRESSURE, EIEE, HUMANISE, MEROP, SAMPLE, iROCS, and ALIX.

"It is crucial for Armenia to integrate into European and global scientific circles and articulate our space ambitions. Today, many Armenian experts are actively involved in global space endeavors. Our dream is to present Armenia to the world as a country driving forward space exploration programs. In this respect, this was a very important initiative," emphasized Mher Mehrabyan, a member of the group hosting the "AMADEE-24" Mars Analogue Mission in Armenia.

Hayk Aslanyan, a member of the Armenian initiative group of the project, reflected, "This project wasn't without its challenges, but it proved feasible, serving as a stepping stone towards even bigger and more significant initiatives. Following the mission's conclusion, the Armash Mars Analog Research Station will continue to operate, and we will prepare for new large-scale programs."

During the mission's closing ceremony, the guests welcomed the analog astronauts already back on "Earth," engaged with them, captured moments, and familiarized themselves with the robotic tests of the scientific experiments.

"It is a great pleasure to see your smiling faces again. Our crew feels honored to have been part of this mission, conducting scientific experiments and exploring Armenia. Our deepest gratitude goes to the entire mission staff for their incredible teamwork," shared Anika Mehlis, Commander of the analog astronaut crew.

At the end of the event, as a gesture symbolizing successful cooperation and course of the mission, Gernot Grömer presented the Armenian side with a crystal-encrusted souvenir melding rock samples from around the world with Martian meteorite.

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The project was implemented with the support of the Ararat Municipality and the National Assembly Friendship Group Armenia-Austria. The general partner was GTB Holding, strategic partners were Aren Mehrabyan Foundation, Engined AM, Instigate and "Real School", SASTIC, LIGA, SasText and technology partners were Team Telecom Armenia, VEGA, [PROFAL](#), among other partners were Shell and Dili□

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