

100 TO COMPETE FOR ONE-WAY MARS TRIP

The private venture Mars One has announced its selection of 50 men and 50 women who will compete via reality TV for a one-way Mars trip, as early as 2024.

The Dutch-based company **Mars One has chosen 50 men and 50 women to compete for the chance to take a one-way trip to Mars.** Winners would be expected to start up a permanent colony on the Red Planet. They understand they will never return to Earth.

Who would do such a thing? The 100 finalists are people from around the world – 39 from the Americas, 31 from Europe, 16 from Asia, 7 from Africa, and 7 from Oceania – **selected from a group of 202,586 people**, who signed up in 2013 to be considered for the journey by Mars One. The company – which is organized as a not-for-profit foundation – says it chose the list of 100 competitors after going through interviews with chief medical officer **Norbert Kraft**, who said in a statement issued Monday that the candidates during their interviews ...

1. had a chance to show their understanding of the risks involved,
2. team spirit and their motivation to be part of this life changing expedition
3. can endure all the hardships of a permanent settlement on Mars.

The candidates will receive their first shot at training in the copy of the Mars Outpost on Earth and will demonstrate their suitability to perform well in a team. Mars One estimates that it will need billions of dollars to conduct its Mars missions, **including a robotic rover mission planned for launch in 2018.**

While the money question is a big unknown right now, an MIT study concluded that the venture's plan to send humans to Mars and keep them alive was 'overly optimistic' at present on technical grounds, too.

Maybe someone should tell that to the candidates. Or maybe to them getting to Mars isn't the point at all.

AK from EarthSky Notes

