

# EMC9

THE MARS SOCIETY 

The **European Mars Society Convention**, the yearly conference of the European chapters of the *Mars Society*, will be held for the first time in Italy – at Bergamo Congress Center - from 15th to 17th October 2009.

The *Mars Society* is an international organization founded in 1998 at Colorado University in Boulder. Founded by Robert Zubrin, former NASA engineer and international well-known scholar as well as creator of the challenging *Mars Direct* plan - according to which it is possible to go to Mars in a few years at reduced costs using current technologies - the *Mars Society* wants to serve as a means of scientific popularization and promotion of Mars knowledge especially concerning exploration and settlement of the Red Planet.

Its members collect public and private money to finance the research in the name of the Martian cause; for example the *Mars Desert Research Station* in the Utah desert and the *Mars Arctic Research Station (MARS)* on Devon Island, Canada, that support exobiological researches in places showing analogies with the Martian environment.

The **IX European Mars Society Convention** will focus on current scientific studies regarding the planet Mars and in particular on the progress of the Red Planet's exploration program. International scientists, representatives of many aerospace companies and of the European *Mars Society* chapters will take part to the three-day convention.

Among the speakers: **Robert Zubrin**, president of *Mars Society USA*; **Giovanni Bignami**, astrophysicist and space scientist, former president of the *Italian Space Agency*; **Luciano Micciché** of *Thales Alenia Space*; **Gennaro Russo**, responsible for space programs at *CIRA* (Italian Aerospace Research Center); **Luigi Fusco** of *ESA's* Directorate of Earth Observation; **Roberto Giuliani** of *BIC Lazio*; **Giancarlo Genta**, Professor of Machine Design and Construction at the University of Turin; **Alberto Della Torre** of *Carlo Gavazzi Space*; **Giorgio Bianciardi**, exobiology researcher at the University of Siena; **Stefano Dibeï**, Professor at the Center for Studies and Activities for Space (*CISAS*), University of Padua; **Eugenio Sorrentino**, scientific and aerospace journalist; **Richard Heidmann**, **Mateusz Józefowicz** and **Jürgen Herholz**, president of the French, Polish and German *Mars Society*.

To register to the convention visit [www.marssociety.it](http://www.marssociety.it) or contact [segreteria@marssociety.it](mailto:segreteria@marssociety.it).



**The Italian Mars Society**

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