



## NEWS RELEASE

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Release # 022013

Contact Next Intent

<http://www.nextintent.com>

805.781.6755, x-111

## **Next Intent Manufactured Drill Collects Mars Rock Powder**

### ***Biggest Curiosity Rover Accomplishment since Landing***

**San Luis Obispo, CA, February 14, 2013** – Showing their expertise in close tolerance and sophisticated CNC machine component design and manufacturing, the drill constructed for the NASA/JPL Mars Science Laboratory by [Next Intent](http://www.nextintent.com) has successfully drilled and collected a powder sample from a rock on Mars. NASA/JPL hopes that the rock chosen and the sample collected may reveal evidence of a past wet environment on Mars.

This successful drilling and sample collection on Mars is a first and has been lauded as the biggest milestone accomplishment for the Rover Curiosity team since the [Mars Science Laboratory](http://www.nasa.gov) (MSL) spacecraft acted as a crane to lower the rover to the surface.

Next Intent also provided key chassis components to the MSL Rover, leveraging their wheel and chassis component manufacturing expertise on the previous 2003 Mars Exploration Rovers (MER). These lightweight, high strength elements have been essential to successful Curiosity movement around the research region while protecting the scientific gear from vibration and jolts.

“This project truly leveraged our [engineering expertise](#) and CNC machine readiness of our designs,” stated Rodney Babcock, President of Next Intent. “Allowing the design to be specified for the most appropriate metal fabrication tools and assembly techniques enabled us to deliver a number of drill prototypes that were tested and ultimately used by NASA/JPL. In addition to drill components, we provided the spider attachment for the Rover quick change chuck. This intricate assembly connects spare drill chucks to the front of the Rover which the drill may need to use in cases where it becomes stuck or damaged during a drilling operation.”

Next Intent has been a JPL partner since 1998, providing critical feedback on design drawings and working with JPL staff on-site at the Next Intent facility. The mutual trust built between the teams has enabled many Next Intent delivered parts to go directly to the JPL clean room bypassing inspection, saving project time and money.

*Continued on Page 2*



### **About Next Intent**

Aerospace, Defense, Scientific Research and Aircraft industries come to Next Intent with next to impossible requirements and Next Intent gives back Really Cool Stuff! Next Intent can offer its customers Mechanical and/or Manufacturing Engineering support for projects, along with complete assembly of components as needed. They collaborate with customers in a team effort to achieve the best results for complex projects.

The carefully assembled and professional Next Intent team has the highest regard for client design and quality requirements. Next Intent leverages AS 9100 and ISO 9001 certifications to deliver the most cost effective components and sub-assemblies along with the confidence that requirements will be met or exceeded. Next Intent has a reputation for quickly [understanding their customer's](#) scope of work, then developing and executing a manufacturing plan to meet or beat expectations.

The Next Intent supply chain and team of partners deliver on time, with quality and precision. Contact Next Intent for an assessment of your difficult requirements and put their team to work on making your component or assembly a production success. [www.nextintent.com](http://www.nextintent.com)

###

### **Press Contact:**

*Next Intent*

Rodney Babcock

805.781.6755, x-111

[Rodney@nextintent.com](mailto:Rodney@nextintent.com)