

ArcGIS goes to Mars

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In late April 2012 a team of four Kiwi explorers headed to a Mars analogue environment maintained by NASA in the deserts of Utah. During the simulation crew members undertook various experiments to collect information to bring back to New Zealand to support the 'Earth, Space and Beyond' component of the New Zealand secondary school science curriculum.

To engage the public in the Mission to Mars, an interactive ArcGIS Online application was created which allowed users to follow the crew's movements and explore the environment in Utah through an elevation profile viewer. GPS tracks, geotagged photos and various points depicting experiment sites and blog posts were highlighted on the map allowing the public to follow the journey as it progressed.

This presentation will walk through the steps involved at each stage of the project which saw members of the Ministry for Primary Industries and KiwiSpace leveraging the ArcGIS 10.1 for Desktop, ArcGIS 10.1 for Server and ArcGIS Online components of the system.

Key takeaways will include insights gained into the relationship of these various components of the ArcGIS 10.1 platform as well as lessons learnt at each stage of the project.

The URL of the application is: <http://www.kiwispace.org.nz/display/MDRSMS/Mission+Map>