

Fernando Abilleira
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Fernando Abilleira received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Aerospace Engineering from Parks College of Saint Louis University in 1999 and 2001 respectively. He started his professional career as a contractor at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and provided Mission Analysis and Design support to James Webb Space Telescope, Hubble Space Telescope, Solar Dynamics Observatory, and ST5.

In January 2004, he joined NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory located in Pasadena, CA, where he works as a Trajectory Analyst and Mission Design Engineer for the Mars Exploration Program Office. He has supported multiple flight projects and studies, such as the Mars Telecommunications Orbiter, Mars Science Orbiter, Mars Netlanders, Mars Sample Return, and the preliminary manned mission to Mars studies, among others. He led the Mission Design work for the 2016-2018 NASA/ESA Mars Mission concepts, and for the 2018-2020 Mars Surface Mission Pre-project. He also served as the Trajectory Lead and Deputy Manager of the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) Mission Design & Navigation team during its Formulation/Implementation phases, and during Launch, Cruise, Approach, and Surface operations. MSL successfully delivered the Curiosity Rover to Mars on August 2012.

Currently, he is serving as the Mission Design & Navigation Manager for the Mars InSight lander due to launch in March 2016. InSight will land on Mars to study its deep interior and will seek to understand the evolutionary formation of rocky planets, including Earth.

He has published several papers in the areas of Astrodynamics, Orbital Mechanics and Trajectory Optimization.

Fernando is committed to promoting the sciences, especially to students, and takes every opportunity he can to speak at schools, universities and museums in both the US and Spain. He makes his home in Moorpark, CA with his wife Sarah and their sons Owen, Ethan, and Logan.

