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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is not to add any new knowledge about the journey of Man towards Mars. Nonetheless, it allows to cover all the elements that the Research has so far discussed, understood or rejected.

This work consists of several cost scenarios at three levels (overall, European, Italian) under different hypotheses. These scenarios can serve to produce estimates of the costs of testing this new product of industry and services.

The final outcome of these analyses will be synthesized in statements such as:

- The amount of the necessary investment is estimated on the parametric basis offered by many sources and making comparisons (i.e. the total investment to send a spacecraft on Mars has been 265 millions \$, 200 millions €).
- The Italian contribution to the programme can be reasonably hypothesized between ...% and ...% of the total.

Therefore, at this very preliminary stage of the initiative, this paper provides for a strategy for the economic assessment of the enlargement of the "domain" inhabited by mankind. It also proposes an introductory overview of some of the different methodologies that can be used to evaluate and monitor the economic impact of the progress of research in the wide spectrum of sectors involved in the Moon base venture.