

Short List of Potential Drilling Techniques for Drilling 200-m Deep Bore on Mars in Support of Subsurface Sampling

No.	System		Description of Sub-systems							
SL	Name of Drilling Method	Refs.	Rock and Soil Comminution	Drill Conveyance	Drill Cuttings Transport	Well Stabilization	Power Transmission	Bottomhole Power Conversion	PM&C ¹¹ Downhole Telemetry	Downhole Thermal Management
Mechanical	Overburden Drilling Systems	Drilling systems based on advancing a casing for borehole stabilization in unstable surface formations while or before drilling a smaller diameter hole to penetrate harder formation where these systems will not drill.								
1	Hollow stem auger	[18]	Mechanical Rotary	Hollow stem auger sections	Auger + Continuous Core ¹⁰	Casing While Coring	Mechanical Rotary	Auger Screw	DHT not supported	Auger Drill Stem to Formation
2	Eccentric Reamer									
A	Conventional ODEX ⁸	[18]	Mech. Rotary/ Percussion	Drill Pipe + Special ODEX TM Casing ⁸	Pneumatic Slurry	Casing While Drilling	Mechanical Reciprocation/Rotary/Pneumatic	Rotary Gouge Percussion Impact	DHT using WLDHC ¹³	Air Cooling
B	Air Rotary	[4, 18]	Mechanical Rotary	T&C Drill Pipe + Special ODEX TM Casing ⁸	Pneumatic Slurry	Casing While Drilling	Mechanical Rotary / Pneumatic	Rotary Gouge (Percussion Impact multi-cone)	Drill Stem Acoustic Telemetry	Air Cooling
C	Air Powered Pneumatic Motor	[4]	Mechanical Rotary/ Percussion	Continuous Tubing+Special ODEX TM Casing ⁸	Pneumatic Slurry	Casing While Drilling	Mechanical Reciprocation/Rotary/Pneumatic	Rotary Gouge Percussion Impact / Pneumatic Hammer/Motor	Telemetry Cable in Continuous Tubing	Air Cooling
3	Dual Rotary Drilling									
A	Conventional Mechanical Rotary	[18]	Mechanical Rotary	Drill Pipe + Special LH Thrd. ⁹ Casing	Pneumatic Slurry	Casing While Drilling	Mechanical Rotary/Pneumatic	RH Rotary Gouge Bit / LH Rotary Gouge Casing Shoe	DHT using WLDHC	Air Cooling
B	Sonic Drill Mechanical Vibrator	[7, 19]	Mechanical Percussion/ Rotation	T&C Drill Rods + Spec. LH Thrd. ⁹ Casing	Continuous Core	Casing While Drilling	Mechanical Reciprocation / Rotation	Percussion Impact Rotary Indexing Kerf Core Head	DHT not supported	Bit to Drill Rod to Rock and Core
C	Ultrasonic/sonic drill/corer	[17]	Mechanical Percussion	T&C Drill Rods + Spec. LH Thrd. ⁹ Casing	Continuous Core	Casing While Drilling	Mechanical Reciprocation	Percussion Impact Kerfing Corehead	DHT not supported	Bit to Drill Rod to Rock and Core
D	Air Diamond (Kerf) Coring	[4, 5, 18]	Mechanical Rotary	T&C Drill Rods + Spec. LH Thrd. ⁹ Casing	Continuous Core ¹⁰ /Pneumatic Slurry	Casing While Coring	Mechanical Rotary / Pneumatic	Rotary Gouge Core Head	DHT not supported	Air Cooling
4	Wireline Retractable Drill/Casing Advancer									
A	Conventional Mechanical Wireline Retractable	[18]	Mechanical Rotary	Casing Shoe w/Wireline Bit Replacement	Pneumatic Slurry	Casing While Drilling	Mechanical Reciprocation/Rotary/Electric/Pneumatic	Rotary Gouge Percussion Impact	DHT using Wireline	Air Cooling
B	Electric Motor with Air Cooling	[7, 8, 9, 10]	Mechanical Rotary	Umbilical Wireline ⁹ w/power cable	Pneumatic Slurry	Casing While Drilling	Electric / Pneumatic	Rotary Gouge (Percussion Impact multi-cone) / Electric Motor	DHT using Wireline	Air Cooling
C	Percussion Churn Air ²	[1,18]	Mechanical Percussion	Sandline ⁹ drill under advancing casing	Scow Bailer / Bucket Auger	Casing While Drilling	Mechanical Reciprocation	Gravity Accelerated Impact w/Cable Wrap Indexing	DHT using Wireline	Bit to Cuttings to Formation
5	Subterranean Moles	Suid circulation and cuttings disposal.								
A	Percussion Mole	[JPL+RDS]	Mech. Rotary/ Percussion	Self propelled mole / umbilical	Repack cuttings behind the mole	Densified Wall and Re-packed Hole	Hydraulic or Electric	Percussion Impact Rotary Indexing / Electric Motor	DHT using cable in Umbilical	Mole to Cuttings and Rock (and Umbilical?)
Thermal										
6	Rock Melting Drills	These are a family of systems based on partial or complete fusion of rock to produce a densified cast bore lining and excess melt removed by extrusion & solidification of small particles.								
A	Conduction Melting	[7, 11, 12, 15]	Thermal Fusion	Continuous Tubing w/Utilities	Extruded Melt in Pneumatic Slurry	Densified and Annealed Glass	Electric / Pneumatic	Electric Heater / Fusion	Telemetry Cable in Continuous Tubing	Air Circulation and Expansion
B	EM Melting (LASER and Microwave)	[7, 11, 12]	Thermal Fusion	Continuous Tubing w/Utilities	Extruded Melt in Pneumatic Slurry	Densified and Annealed Glass	Electric / Pneumatic	EM Radiation Generator / Fusion	Telemetry Cable in Continuous Tubing	Air Circulation and Expansion
C	Electric Arc and Plasma Melting	[7, 11, 12]	Thermal Fusion	Continuous Tubing w/Utilities	Extruded Melt in Pneumatic Slurry	Densified and Annealed Glass	Electric / Pneumatic	Spark or Arc Plasma Heater / Fusion	Telemetry Cable in Continuous Tubing	Water Circulation
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Footnotes

- Mud implies **liquid** drilling fluids including water, natural mud, bentonite base mud, or polymer-based mud.
- Air implies Martian atmosphere primarily **CO₂** at a uncompressed pressure of 800 Pa + ~200 Pa.
- Motor and/or Hammer implies downhole transmitted power conversion to **rotary and/or reciprocating** mechanical
- T&C** = threaded and coupled segmented drill stem. **Drill steels** are hollow, thick-walled steel rods designed to convey high reciprocating compressive loads from the surface to the bit. **Drill pipe** has externally/internally upset tool-joint-connection design for high tensile and torsion loads and a pipe diameter of 0.2 to 0.7 times the bore diameter. **Drill rods** have flush-joint external connections and a pipe diameter > 0.7 times the bore diameter that is designed for high speed rotation obtaining laterally significant support from contact with the bore wall. **Push rods** are 3 to 5-ft (1 to 1.7-m) long, threaded and coupled solid rods or heavy wall steel tubes. **Continuous Tubing** is coiled or reeled tubing that is inserted and retracted from the bore much like a wireline and can be inserted and retracted with out cessation of circulation, power transmission, or telemetry. **Umbilical** are flexible wirelines or tethers with telemetry and power cable, and hydraulic/pneumatic hoses.
- A **sandline** is a structural steel wire cable with no copper or fiber optic telemetry. A **wireline** is a telemetry (wire or fiber optic) cable wrapped inside a structural steel armor cable so that the entire cable is self-supporting in a deep hole.
- TBD** = to be determined. Commercial system or prototype technology is unknown or does not exist or effect of drilling method on hole stability is not obvious or known.
- w/Utilities** = with utilities installed inside of the tube or cable that may include telemetry or fiber optic cables, and electric power cable, and/or hydraulic or pneumatic tubing.
- ODEX**TM = overburden eccentric drilling. Commercial advanced casing-while-drilling system for shallow unconsolidated and unstable formations [1]. The system uses an under-reaming bit that can be run and withdrawn through the casing. The bottom of the casing is tipped with hard facing and the casing is advanced with percussion.
- LH Thread.** = Left hand threaded casing. Casing is advanced with a dual rotary table that **Right Hand** rotates a conventional drilling system with an eccentric, extractable, under-reaming bit inside a **Left Hand** rotating casing string with a rotary drilling shoe on bottom.
- Continuous Core** with thin wall T&C drill stem, drill rods or hollow stem augers supports wireline core retrieval.
- PM&C** = process monitoring and control – Long list addresses downhole telemetry presently supported or conceptually supported in the system concept proposed
- DHT** = downhole telemetry support through or in drill stem. Telemetry for some systems is not supported in commercial or prototype systems that we are aware of.
- WLDHC** = wireline downhole connection. This is a wireline that is run through a top drive rotary swivel or surface tubing thruster and through the inside of a T&C drill stem or push rod after the bit is set on the bottom of the hole. It is then plugged into the bottom-hole assembly using wet-connect technology that would be a dry connection in air drilling or thrust boring.

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