

## In Response to The Two Faces of ESA

Dear Professor Crater,

Thank you for the paper that you and your colleague provided.

I read through the article and I can't help feeling that we have some misunderstanding about the Face Mesa and the data used in our press release.

Let's start with the "high peak rising from the center of the 'forehead'". To make sure that we are talking about the same images, I will refer to the naming scheme at the bottom of our webpage:

<http://www.geoinf.fu-berlin.de/eng/projects/mars/hrsc300-Cydonia.php>

Lan Fleming correctly identified two different DTMs in the various released images. One is larger in area and was used in the images #3d1, #3d2, #3d3, #3d4 and #3d7. A second one has been produced for the area of the Face Mesa only and was used in the images #3d5 and #3d6. Judging from the Fleming paper it is the second DTM that is causing some concern.

The "peak on the forehead" marks the highest spot in the second DTM.

Still we are also not convinced, that the "peak" exists in the way it appears in the second DTM. It may just as well be an artifact created by the DTM matching algorithm. All our press products are based on standard DTMs derived in an automated way, and which do not match scientific standards necessarily, and are not error-checked.

We understand that this might have caused some disturbances in the case of the Cydonia release. The second issue I would like to address is the MSSS credit line of the images #3d5 and #3d6. We incorporated the MOC image E03-00824 into the color-overlay of the DTM to increase the level of visible detail. This procedure leaves the DTM, which is solely derived from HRSC data, unmodified.

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Neukum  
Freie Universitaet Berlin  
Department of Earth Sciences  
Institute of Geosciences  
Remote Sensing of the Earth and Planets  
Malteserstr. 74-100, Building D  
D-12249 Berlin  
GERMANY