Cameras Provide Safe Navigation for Pilots, Drivers

NASA Technology

- An otherwise successful 423-million-mile trip to Mars can be threatened in the final few feet due to surface hazards preventing a safe landing
- NASA investigated terrain-sensing technologies, including cameras capable of real-time, 3D imagery under a variety of lighting and surface conditions

Partnership

- Advanced Scientific Concepts Inc. (ASC) received a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) award from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to adapt their 3D flash light detection and ranging (LIDAR) camera for entry-, descent-, and landing-phase applications
- ASC also received SBIR awards and a NASA Research Announcement contract to adapt flash LIDAR for docking at the International Space Station

Benefits

- Two versions of the LIDAR camera are available: the DragonEye Space Camera and the TigerEye camera for terrestrial use
- ASC has sold 100 cameras to a number of large- and medium-sized aerospace organizations
- LIDAR cameras are useful in almost any vehicle for collision avoidance and object detection