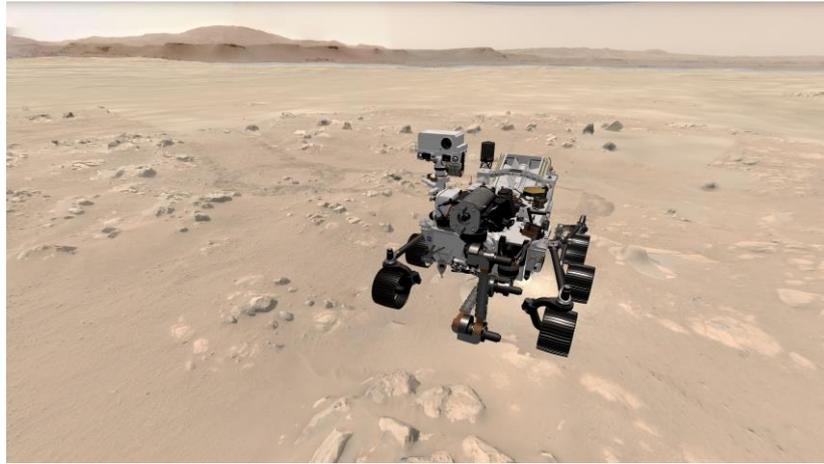


## John McNamee wins Outstanding Achievement Award at APM Awards 2021 –

in recognition for his role in leading the successful launch and delivery of NASA's Mars 2020 Project



NASA's Mars Perseverance Rover is shown at its landing site, Jezero Crater. Photo: NASA/JPL-Caltech

**16 November 2021** - The winners of the annual Association for Project Management (APM) Awards have been announced at a live awards ceremony which took place on Monday 15 November 2021. For the first time since 2019, the APM Awards, sponsored by RPC UK Ltd, took place face to face, recognising the very best within the project profession – from aspiring young project managers to complex and transformational projects and programmes, both in the UK and internationally.

John McNamee, a project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Southern California from 2013 to 2021, was awarded APM's Outstanding Achievement Award for his leading role in the successful landing of the 2020 Perseverance Rover on Mars, with the scientific goal of searching for ancient life on the planet. The highly coveted APM award recognises the work of an individual in the field of project management, who has delivered something truly outstanding in their role.

NASA's Mars 2020 project saw the Perseverance Rover land on the surface of Mars on 18 February 2021, after travelling through space at more than 12,000 mph, covering approximately 300 million miles (480 million kilometres). The landing was streamed live via NASA's YouTube channel, and Perseverance was later able to send back high-definition footage from the final moments of its descent – watched by millions around the world.





On accepting his award, Mr. McNamee said, “I am incredibly humbled and appreciative to accept this award, but I receive it on the backs of the thousands of individuals involved in making the project happen.

It has been a privilege to lead such a committed group of people, especially during such unprecedented times, and I will ensure that they are all aware of this honour in recognition of everything they have achieved.”

Professor Adam Boddison, chief executive of APM, said: “I would like to congratulate Mr McNamee on winning this award for his efforts in delivering one of science’s most important projects, the exploration of Mars.

“Our awards are all about celebrating the outstanding successes and achievements of the project profession, made all the more significant by the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been fantastic to see so many people attend this year’s award ceremony face to face, and I would like to congratulate all the award winners and finalists, they are a true reflection on the growing talent within the profession.”

John McNamee was born in Fort Sill, Oklahoma but spent most of his youth in Hollywood, Florida. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Florida in 1975 and went on to receive a master’s degree and doctorate in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas, Austin. He has a long history at NASA’s JPL, with posts working on Mars Exploration, Interplanetary Network, Solar System Exploration, and Mars Pathfinder projects.

For a full list of the APM Award 2021 winners visit [apm.org.uk/apm-awards/](https://apm.org.uk/apm-awards/)

For further information about NASA’s Mars 2020 project visit: [mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/mission/overview/](https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/mission/overview/)

**-ENDS-**

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### **About Association for Project Management (APM)**

APM is the Association for Project Management, a professional membership organisation that sets the standards for the project profession and the only chartered organisation representing the project profession in the world. As a registered charity, APM provides education, qualifications, networking opportunities, research, resources, events and best practice guidance for the project community, helping the profession deliver better.

APM currently has over 35,000 members and more than 450 corporate partners based in over 128 countries across the world. Please see [apm.org.uk](http://apm.org.uk) for further details.