

## Mars Science Laboratory (Msl) Entry, Descent, and Landing Instrumentation (Medli): Complete Flight Data Set (Paperback)



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## MARS SCIENCE LABORATORY (MSL) ENTRY, DESCENT, AND LANDING INSTRUMENTATION (MEDLI): COMPLETE FLIGHT DATA SET (PAPERBACK)

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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.On August 6, 2012 (1:31 AM EDT), the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) successfully traversed the atmosphere to land on Mars. But by the time the sky crane lowered the Curiosity rover to the surface, one experiment (the MSL Entry Descent and Landing (EDL) Instrumentation (MEDLI) suite) had already collected all of its data. For the entire atmospheric entry phase, from just before atmospheric interface until it was powered off approximately 10 seconds after the parachute was deployed, MEDLI monitored the entry vehicle's surface pressures and heatshield temperatures. MEDLI delivered the first in-depth understanding of the Mars entry environments and the response of the entry vehicle to those environments. Previous Mars entry missions assessed their entry performance (vehicle drag and stability) via the observed initial states coupled with the onboard inertial measurement unit (IMU) data. This approach is devoid of environmental measurements, so total drag force cannot be decomposed into aerodynamics and atmospheric conditions. In addition, no through-thickness measurements to ascertain heatshield thermal protection system (TPS) performance were taken on previous entry missions. MEDLI culminated decades of advocacy by the EDL community for entry vehicle instrumentation. The fate of the Genesis and Stardust sample return missions served as an impetus for this advocacy. On September 8, 2004, an incorrectly installed g-trigger did not command deployment of its drogue chute, and the Genesis capsule tumbled through the atmosphere. The plan had called for a mid-air retrieval via its slow-descent parafoil to avoid landing impact loads, but instead the parafoil did not deploy and the Genesis capsule crashed into the ground. The minimal EDL data available from Genesis also slowed the mishap investigation. Sixteen months later, on January 15, 2006, a successful...

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