

Lost in space: the latest Mars probe failure

Russia is racing to salvage a Mars moon probe which has fallen into a low Earth orbit that threatens to send it hurtling back to the ground. Controllers have a two-week window with which to try and reprogram the craft and send it on its way, but so far have been unable to make contact

► **Phobos-Grunt:**
Launch successful
but two subsequent
engine burns fail

Phobos lander

Yinghuo-1

Cost: \$163 million

Mission: To extract soil samples from Mars moon Phobos and return to Earth. *Craft also carrying China's first Mars satellite, Yinghuo-1*

MARS MISSION SUCCESS RATES

U.S.: 13

Russia: 18

Total:
38

Japan: 1

Europe: 1

U.S.: 5

✗ Failures ✓ Successes