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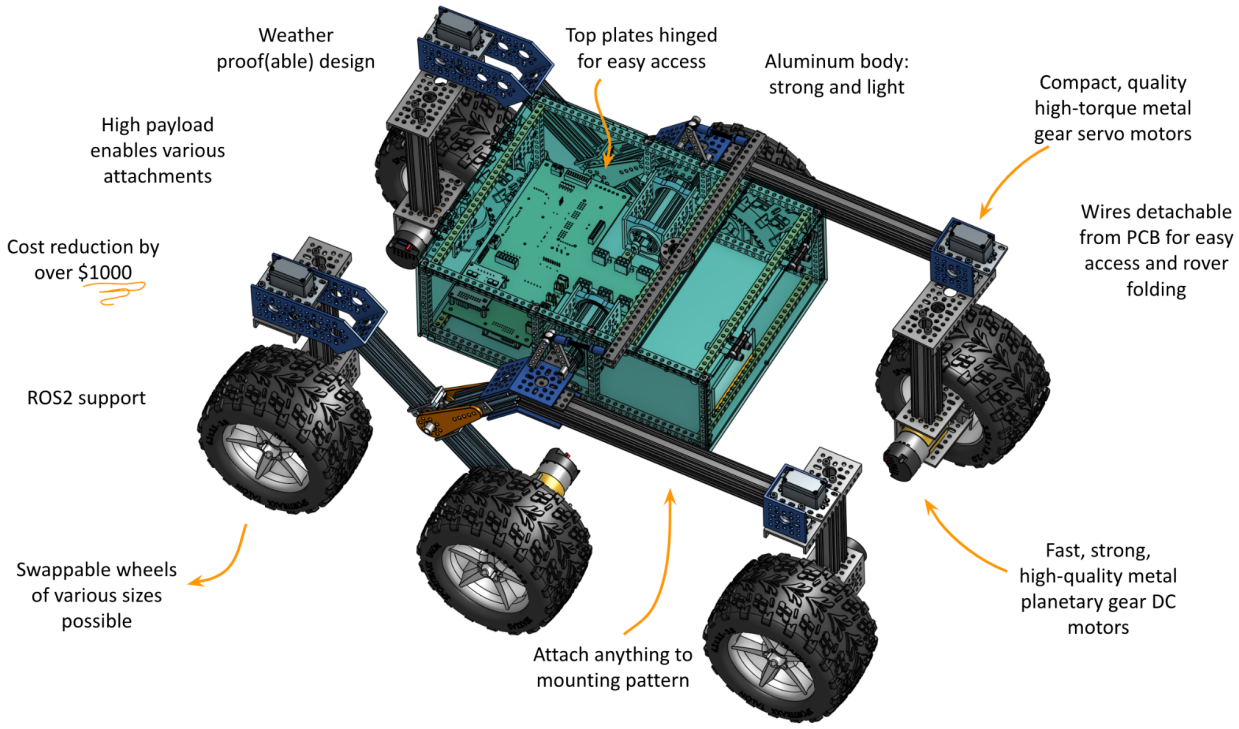
NASA-JPL Unveils the New and Improved Open Source Rover

NASA-JPL's DIY Rover Kit Opens Up New Possibilities for Hobbyists and Educators

Pasadena, CA: NASAs Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) has recently unveiled an upgraded version of their Open Source Rover (OSR) , a DIY replica of the Perseverance Mars Rover. This new edition, which was launched 5 years ago has undergone improvements based on feedback from builders and the availability of new components. The aim is to make it more accessible, affordable and versatile for space enthusiasts and educators.



Achille, the key contributor to the project expressed excitement about the new OSR; "It's not just a mere replica; it represents the incredible power of collaboration within our community. By incorporating consumer parts instead of relying on 3D printing we've made it easier for students and hobbyists alike to construct their own rover. It's all about bringing space exploration to home."(Achille)

Key Highlights of the New OSR:

- Consumer-Friendly Approach: The new version utilizes consumer off-the-shelf (COTS) parts, eliminating the need for 3D printing. This ensures that as soon as the parts arrive, enthusiasts can start assembling.
- Affordability: The cost has been significantly reduced to an estimated $1600, making it more accessible to a broader audience.
- Simplified Building Process: With a consolidated vendor list, builders can now source parts from fewer vendors, streamlining the building process.
- Enhanced Documentation: High-quality, detailed documentation is available, targeting first-time builders and high-school students. The switch from LaTeX to Markdown has made contributions and maintenance more straightforward.
- Adaptability: The entire model is available on OnShape, allowing anyone to view and adapt it without specialized software. Additionally, the rover has been designed with maintenance in mind, featuring detachable wiring and hinging body plates for easy servicing.

About NASA-JPL's Open Source Rover: The OSR project was initiated by a small team within JPL, later handed off to the community. It has since been maintained and updated by a dedicated team of contributors. The rover is not just a replica of Mars rovers but is designed for Earth, using high-quality parts built to last, capable of scaling obstacles, including stairs.