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THE COVER

More than a hundred exposures taken by the Phoenix lander's surface stereo imager camera were combined and projected as if the viewer is looking down from above to create this remarkably clear image of the spacecraft millions of miles away on the surface of Mars (cover). The black circle is where the camera itself is mounted to the craft, an area that is out of the field of view of the camera. In "phoenix on Mars" (pages 40-47), Walter Goetz describes the scientific studies that the lander has carried out on-site in the Martian polar region, including analyses of soil chemistry and complete water cycle on the red planet. (Image courtesy of NASA/JPL –Caltech/University of Arizona/Texas A&M University.)