



Firouz Michael Naderi

B.S., Electrical Engineering, 1969

After Iowa State, Firouz went on to complete his Ph.D. at the University of Southern California before joining NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he spent more than 36 years in various technical and senior executive positions. While best known for his leadership of the Mars exploration program, he has contributed to some of the most iconic NASA robotic missions to various corners of the solar system. For his work, he has been recognized with multiple awards, among them NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal as well as NASA's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal. For his career contributions to space science and exploration, in March 2016, Asteroid 1989 EL1 was renamed Asteroid "Naderi 5515." He feels that his formative years at Iowa State were the initial rungs in the ladder that allowed him to reach for the stars.

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