



Lava Flow Front in Elysium Planitia

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This image shows details of the lava covered plains near the equator of Mars. The darker looking area has a rough lava surface with all the shadows giving the region a darker appearance. This rough lava is surrounded by smoother lava with abundant inflation features. In volcanology, "inflation" is the process where the solidified lava crust is lifted by liquid lava being injected into the interior of a lava flow. The inflation features are best developed in the southern portion of the image.

The HIRISE camera onboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is the most powerful one of its kind ever sent to another planet. Its high resolution allows us to see Mars like never before, and helps other missions choose a safe spot to land for future exploration. Thousands of images are available online at: uahirise.org.