Faces of Science: Roger Wiens

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Wiens’ passion for space has no limits

At nine years old, Roger Wiens built a telescope to sketch the features of Mars.

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Forty years later he returned to the Red Planet, this time as part of a team that invented ChemCam, a device aboard the rover Curiosity.

Using a laser that packs the energy of a million light bulbs into a spot the size of a pinhead, ChemCam blasts pieces of Martian rock in search of elements like carbon and oxygen—some of the basic building blocks of life.

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Roger Wiens works for ISR-2's Space & Remote Sensing group.

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