

1st Information Circular

MEPAG Meeting

April 19-20, 2006

Letter of Invitation

Members of the Mars community,

I cordially invite you to attend the next meeting of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG), scheduled for April 19-20, 2006 at the Holiday Inn in Monrovia, California (close to JPL). Because of the number of important issues we need to discuss, we are tentatively planning for the meeting to extend two full days.

Key agenda topics will include:

- Current status, and future planning, for NASA's Mars Exploration Program.
- Report from the MEPAG Science Analysis Group focusing on defining key investigations for the 2011/2013 Mars Science and Telecommunications Orbiter (the MSTO SAG)
- Report from the MEPAG Science Analysis Group on proposed clarification of martian 'special regions', as used in planetary protection (the SR-SAG)
- Planning for Future Instrument Development. MEPAG plans to analyze the current state of our Mars-relevant instrument development efforts, and to identify what future work is needed to implement the orbital and landed measurements proposed in the new Program Plan. This analysis may be used by NASA in structuring future instrument development competitions.
- Fate of the Data. MEPAG would also like to analyze the status and sufficiency of our procedures and systems for maximizing the use of Mars flight data. This would include all aspects of information management, including calibration data, data processing and analysis by the flight team, archiving, and effective access to the information by non-flight team researchers (perhaps many years later).

This meeting is open to all members of the Mars science community, including international colleagues. As part of the instrument-related topic, I request that as many MIDP, ASTID, ASTEP, and Mars-relevant PIDDP PIs as possible attend. There are too many of you to fit in the oral agenda, so instead we are considering a major instrument-related poster session where information can be exchanged in a concurrent way. I also request that the program managers (or their representatives) of the major relevant instrument development programs come with summary information about their program status.

This meeting is important, and I hope you can attend. If anybody has a specific request for time on the agenda on matters of general interest, please correspond with either me (arvidson@wundow.wustl.edu) or Dr. David Beaty (David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov) by the end of February, 2006, when we plan to start assembling the specific meeting agenda.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ray Arvidson
MEPAG Chair

Basic Logistics

- Dates: April 19-20, 2006. Start at 8 AM on Wednesday, April 19, end at 5 PM on Thursday, April 20.
- Location: The Holiday Inn, 924 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, California, 12 miles east of JPL. The hotel is located 22 miles east of the Burbank Airport, 38 miles northeast of Los Angeles International Airport, and 31 miles west of the Ontario Airport. It was the location for MEPAG's June 2004 and November 2005 meetings.
- Hotel Reservation Information: The Holiday Inn will provide their special rate of \$89/night to MEPAG meeting participants, on a space-available basis. Rooms have high-speed Internet service. To secure a reservation at the special rate, please contact the hotel directly (626-357-1900), and advise that you are a JPL/MEPAG meeting participant (code PAG). Please note that the hotel became sold-out for our previous meeting, so it's best to reserve your hotel room early. If we over-subscribe this hotel, there are others within walking distance.
- RSVP deadline: April 5, 2006 to Debbie Calderón (Debbie.Calderon@jpl.nasa.gov)
- MSL PSG Meeting: Note that the MSL Project Science Group (PSG) has scheduled a meeting immediately before this meeting (on Monday-Tuesday, April 17-18), at the same hotel. A special invitation is extended to the participants in this meeting to stay over for the MEPAG meeting.

If you need additional logistical information, please contact Terry Martin, MEPAG Meeting Coordinator, Terry.Z.Martin@jpl.nasa.gov, phone = 818-354-2178, FAX = 818-393-4619.

If you have updates to the master MEPAG e-mail list (either correction of faulty e-mail addresses, addition of Mars science colleagues who have been inadvertently omitted), or deletions, please contact Debbie Calderón at Debbie.Calderon@jpl.nasa.gov.