

1st Information Circular
19th MEPAG Meeting
September 18, 2008

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 September 18, 2008 at the DoubleTree Hotel, Monrovia, CA. The MEPAG meeting follows the 3rd MSL Landing Site Workshop, which runs September 15-17 in the same venue.

This meeting comes after a spring and summer of exciting science and exploration on Mars. In addition, our hard work at the last meeting has already benefited the Mars Program.

Key agenda topics will include:

- Results of the Phoenix mission.
- Discussion of Mars program status and future planning, including potential international collaborations.
- Outbriefs from recent Mars Architecture Tiger Team (MATT) and IMARS activities. This will include discussions of options for the 2016-2018 opportunities and Mars Sample Return options.

Note that white papers from many of these groups will be published on the MEPAG web site (<http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/reports/index.html>) before the meeting. I encourage you to read these papers before the meeting so you can fully participate in the discussions.

- Planning for additional MEPAG work.

As has been our policy, the meeting is open to all members of the Mars science community, including international colleagues. In addition, the meeting will be broadcast via WebEx for those who cannot attend in person. I hope you can attend.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jack Mustard
MEPAG Chair

The meeting agenda and WebEx directions will be distributed with the 2nd Information Circular.

Basic Logistics

- Date: Thursday, September 18, 2008. Starts at 8 AM and ends at 5 PM.
- Location: The DoubleTree Hotel Monrovia, 924 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, California, United States 91016. The hotel is located directly off the Huntington Drive exit of the 210 freeway, about 15 minutes east of JPL. Directions are available on the DoubleTree Hotel website <http://doubletree1.hilton.com/>.
- Hotel Reservation Information: The DoubleTree Hotel Monrovia (626-357-1900) is making 50 rooms available to us (rate of \$118/night). Rooms have high-speed Internet service. To secure a reservation, please contact the hotel directly and specify that you want the JPL rate and you will be attending the MEPAG meeting. The deadline when the hotel will release any unreserved rooms from the MEPAG block for general sale is **September 3, 2008**; however, it is best to make your reservation early.
- Additional Hotels: Other hotels in the area are listed below. Note we have not made any special arrangement with these hotels.
- Meeting RSVP: So that we can plan the meeting logistics (e.g., seating, morning and afternoon refreshments, name badges, handouts, etc.), we request that all participants RSVP by **September 3, 2008** to Joyce Pulliam (Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov). Please note that an RSVP is not required to attend the meeting.

If you need additional information, please contact Charles Budney, MEPAG meeting coordinator, charles.j.budney@jpl.nasa.gov, phone = 818-354-3981, FAX = 818-393-3800. 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 Joyce Pulliam (Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov).

Additional area hotels:

700 Huntington Hotel
700 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016
Phone: 626-357-5211

Hilton Garden Inn
199 N. Second Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006
Phone: 626-574-6900

Extended Stay America Arcadia
401 E. Santa Clara St., Arcadia, CA 91006
Phone: 626-446-6422

Homestead Studio Suites Monrovia
930 S. Fifth Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016
Phone: 626-256-6999

Embassy Suites
211 E. Huntington Dr., Arcadia, CA 91006
Phone: 626-445-8525

Residence Inn
321 E. Huntington Dr., Arcadia, CA 91006
Phone: 626-446-6500

Hampton Inn
311 E. Huntington Dr., Arcadia, CA 91006
Phone: 626-574-5600