

1st Information Circular
20th MEPAG Meeting
March 3-4, 2009

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 **March 3-4, 2009** at the **Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark, Arlington, VA**.

This meeting comes at a critical juncture. Our existing missions at Mars will have completed another year of exciting science and exploration, and two missions in development, MSL and MAVEN, are scheduled for launch in 2011 and 2013, respectively. Our planning focus is now on the last half of the decade—the launch opportunities of 2016, 2018, and 2020. It will be very important for MEPAG to participate in the process of updating our exploration strategies, the definition of the mission options, and the mission sequencing that leads to an architecture. In addition, the National Academy will be carrying out the next Planetary Science Decadal Survey over the next couple of years, and it will be important for us to be prepared to respond to their requests for input.

Key agenda topics will include:

- Discussion of current Mars program status
- Future planning for NASA's Mars mission activity, including draft architectures for the next decade. We will include discussions of international Mars interests, options, and priorities for the next decade.
- Planning for future MEPAG work.

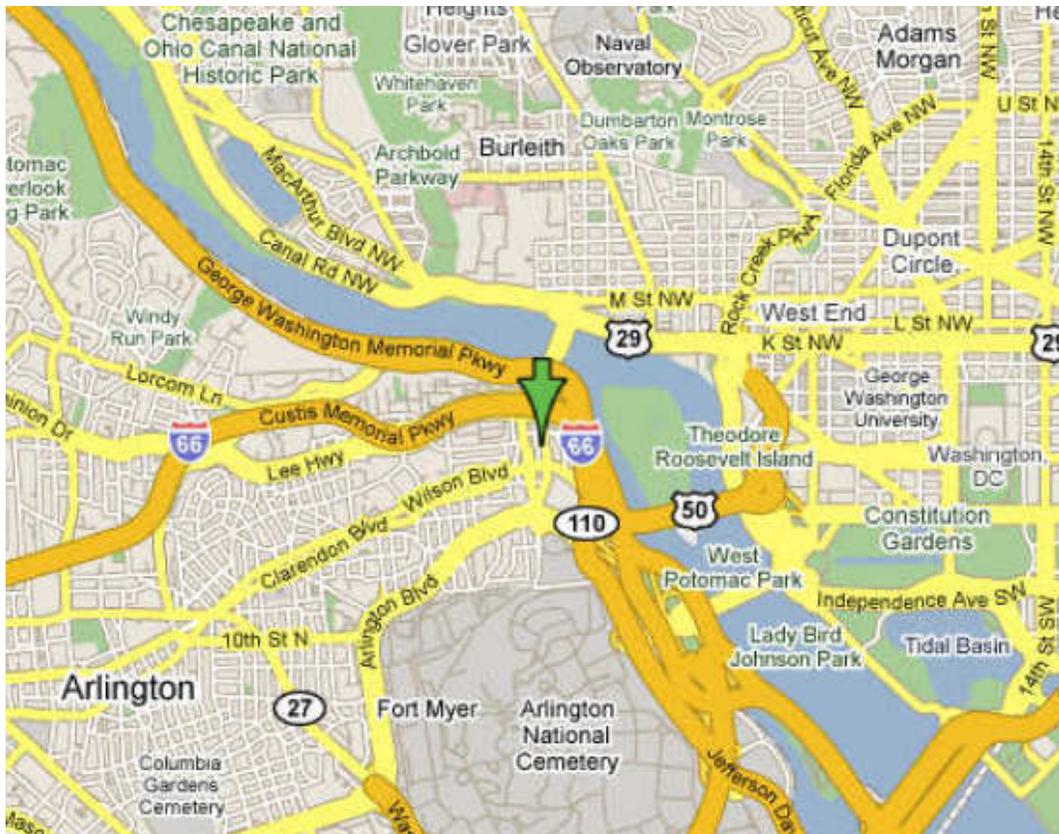
The meeting is open to all members of the Mars science community, and I welcome our international colleagues. In addition, we will attempt to broadcast the meeting via WebEx for those who cannot attend in person, although this may be dependent on infrastructure at the hotel.

I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jack Mustard
MEPAG Chair

Basic Logistics

- Date: Tuesday and Wednesday, March 3-4, 2009. Start at 8 AM on both days; end at ~3 PM on March 4 so that participants can catch the evening flights home.
- Location: The Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark, 1900 North Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA 22209. Phone: (703) 807-2000.
<http://www.holidayinn.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/waswp?rpb=hotel&crUrl=/h/d/hi/1/en/hotelsearchresults>
- Hotel Reservation Information: The Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark (703-807-2000) is making 65 rooms available to us for arrival on March 2 and departing as late as March 4 at the government rate of \$209.00 plus 10.25% tax. To secure a reservation, please contact the hotel directly and specify that you want the “MEP” 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 **February 3, 2009**; however, it is best to make your reservation early.
- Transportation: **By Air**: 3 miles from Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA), Shuttle Charge (one way): \$13.00 (USD), Taxi Charge (one way): ~\$15.00 (USD); 25 miles from Dulles International Airport (IAD), Shuttle Charge (one way): \$40.00 (USD), Taxi Charge (one way): ~\$45.00 (USD). **By subway**: For locals, Rosslyn has a subway stop on the Washington Metro system (0.01 MI southeast of hotel).



- 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 **February 23, 2009** to Joyce Pulliam (Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov). (However, an RSVP is not required to attend the meeting.)

WebEx Logistics

Directions will be provided in a later announcement.

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).