

2nd Information Circular
33rd MEPAG Meeting
February 22-23, 2017
Monrovia, CA

Letter of Invitation

Members of the Mars community,

I cordially invite you to attend the 2017 face-to-face meeting of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG), scheduled for February 22-23, 2017, at the Double-Tree Hotel in Monrovia, CA.

Developments in Mars exploration since the October 6, 2016 virtual MEPAG meeting continue to expand our understanding of the ancient and modern relationships between the crust and atmosphere on a habitable world. Ongoing in situ exploration of Gale Crater by the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) rover *Curiosity* and of Endeavour Crater by the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) *Opportunity* has been paired with orbital monitoring and analyses of the surface and atmosphere by Mars Odyssey, the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO), and the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution mission (MAVEN). International efforts continue with orbital operations by the Mars Express (MEX) orbiter, the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), and with the latest arrival, the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO). Despite the disappointing loss of the ExoMars EDL Demonstration Module (Schiaparelli), enough data were acquired during its EDL to aid the design of future missions. Advanced planning for the upcoming Mars2020 and InSight missions continues alongside development of longer-term strategies for science-driven robotic sample return and human exploration.

This meeting will report on the overall status of Mars exploration. A special topic for discussion will be the final report from the Mars International Collaboration Science Analysis Group (MIC-SAG) summarizing their recommendations on how to coordinate U.S. and international science and payload participation in the next orbiter mission to Mars in a manner that ensures completion of mission science objectives.

A draft agenda is now available, and key discussion topics will include:

- Status of Mars exploration by NASA and other space agencies
- Interaction with the Human program (HEOMD) and potential commercial partners
- NASA and ESA landing site selection activities
- Status of ongoing Mars missions
- Status of upcoming missions (e.g., Mars2020, InSIGHT, UAE)
- Future MEPAG activities

The meeting is open to all members of the Mars science and exploration communities and we welcome our international colleagues. We will also broadcast the meeting online for those who cannot attend in person.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Monrovia!

Sincerely,
Jeff Johnson
MEPAG Chair

Directions for participating remotely will be available on the meeting webpage, closer to the meeting date.

Basic Logistics

- Date: Wednesday, February 22nd – 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM
Thursday, February 23rd – 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM
- Location: DoubleTree Hotel Monrovia-Pasadena
924 West Huntington Drive
Monrovia, California, 91016
Phone: 1-626-357-1900
- Hotel Reservation Information: A block of rooms reserved at the rate of \$159.00 per night plus tax are available on a first-come, first-served basis for rooms reserved by **January 25th** (after this date, the room block hold will be released). To make a reservation, please call the DoubleTree and refer to the group “JPL-MEPAG” or book directly through this link: <http://group.doubletree.com/JPL-MEPAGFacetoFaceMeeting2>. (Please note that the room block for the Mars 2020 Landing Site Workshop, which will be held at the same hotel earlier in the month, is using the same code, so please be specific with the dates if you will be making your hotel reservations over the phone.)
- 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 planning to attend in-person to RSVP by February 6th, 2017 to Carla de la Paz (paz@jpl.nasa.gov) or at this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/c2DE2dpDP1wOTtoJA3>. Please note that an RSVP is not required to attend the meeting, but is strongly encouraged as it will assist us in our planning.
- Agenda: The current agenda is attached, and will be posted at the MEPAG website.

If you need additional information, please contact Lindsay Hays, MEPAG meeting coordinator (lhays@jpl.nasa.gov, phone 818-354-6180). If you have updates to the master MEPAG e-mail list (correction of faulty email addresses, addition of Mars science colleagues who have been inadvertently omitted, or deleted) please contact mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov.