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2018 INTERNATIONAL MARS SAMPLE RETURN CONFERENCE BERLIN

2nd International Mars Sample Return Conference

25-27 April 2018
Berlin, Germany

Conference by the numbers

2018 INTERNATIONAL MARS SAMPLE RETURN CONFERENCE BERLIN

- Total # of attendees = 183
- Number of abstracts submitted = 115
- Number of invited oral presentations = 33
- Total number of oral presentations = 58
- Number of poster presentations = 61

Country distribution of attendees

Country	# of participants	Country	# of participants
Austria	2	Portugal	1
Belgium	1	Russia	4
Canada	6	Spain	7
France	20	Sweden	3
Germany	30	Switzerland	3
Italy	6	United Arab Emirates	1
Netherlands	3	United Kingdom	18
New Zealand	1	United States	54
Norway	1		

NASA-ESA Signing of SOI

What we observed: The impact of the SOI signed by NASA-ESA on the morale at the conference cannot be understated. People found this to be a big deal, and it had the effect of motivating and focusing the conference participants. This public signing had a powerful effect and added a real 'buzz' to the rest of the event. A lot of people are ready now to buckle down and get to work knowing that they have definitive support from their leaders.

- S. Vijendran & D. Beaty

Joint Statement of Intent between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the European Space Agency on Mars Sample Return

April 26, 2018

Pursuant to the highest objectives established by the international scientific community for planetary science, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the European Space Agency (ESA), expressed a mutual interest in pursuing cooperation on Mars sample return activities through the signature of a 2008 Agreement addressing potential cooperation on future space exploration sample return activities that extends through December 31, 2020;

Recognizing that NASA and ESA continue sharing the common objective of together preparing and launching a set of complementary missions by the end of the next decade that would return samples from Mars to Earth for scientific research;

Recognizing that both agencies are implementing missions and conducting preparatory activities which will contribute to the realisation of a Martian sample return mission, including the NASA Mars 2020 mission that will cache samples for return to Earth and the ESA-Roscosmos Trace Gas Orbiter and ExoMars missions that will expand ESA's operational experience at Mars;

Recognizing that the 2016 ESA Council meeting at the Ministerial level mandated that ESA prepare for the next ESA Mars mission, considering European participation in an international Mars Sample Return (MSR) mission as a key objective;

Recognizing that the United States Fiscal Year 2019 President's Budget Request directs NASA to plan a potential MSR mission leveraging international and commercial partnerships; and

Recognizing NASA and ESA's mutual objective to collaborate on a joint MSR endeavor potentially based on a reference architecture under consideration whereby NASA would lead a MSR campaign as the systems architect and lead an MSR Lander (SRL) mission, and ESA would lead a MSR Orbiter mission and provide the Sample Fetch Rover and the Sample Transfer Arm to the SRL mission and NASA would provide the Sample Capture, Handling, and Containment system and the Earth Entry Vehicle to the MSR Orbiter; this endeavor may be in concert with other international or commercial partners;

NASA and ESA intend to develop a joint MSR plan and to complete the studies needed to reach the level of technical and programmatic maturity required to pursue an effective MSR partnership, specifically defining the respective roles and responsibilities sufficient to lead to an international agreement between the two agencies in time to be submitted for approval to their respective authorities at the end of 2019.

Thomas Zurbuchen
Associate Administrator
for Science
NASA

David Parker
Director
Human and Robotic Exploration
Programmes
ESA

Your thoughts…

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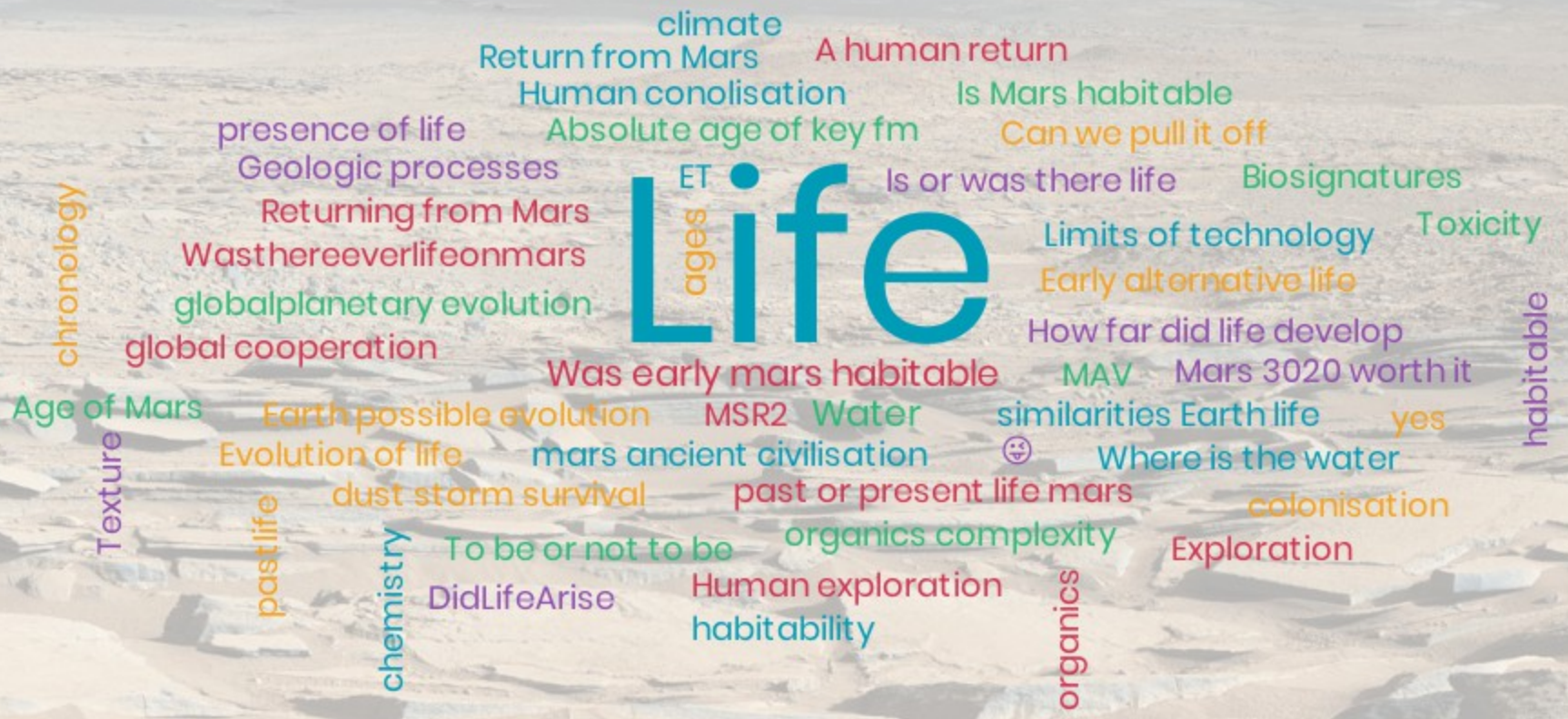
The audience was invited to participate through online Q&A on www.menti.com

What one question do you hope MSR will answer?

Mentimeter



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Position Statement # 1

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The scientific exploration of Mars and the search for extra-terrestrial life have advanced to the point that the return of samples from Mars is more important than ever to enable the next big discoveries in Mars exploration.

Position Statement # 2

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Capitalising on major engineering progress in recent years by the world's space agencies and industries, we are technically ready to start the development of the flight missions associated with retrieving the samples.

Position Statement # 3

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In parallel, planning for the potential receipt and evaluation of the samples has started, and should accelerate, as well as for the processes associated with making the samples available to the world's science community.

Position Statement # 4

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Given the nature and scope of the Mars Sample Return campaign, we expect that engaging the public early and keeping them involved throughout will be a particularly important component of this effort.

Position Statement # 5

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We have the opportunity and the motivation to make the Mars Sample Return campaign an international endeavour and a reality for all humankind.

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Conference proceedings

- Presentation slides and posters are available on the conference website.
- Full video recording of the conference to be made available shortly.

https://atpi.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/2nd-international-conference-on-mars-sample-return/home/ExtraContent/ContentPage?page=8