



White Paper "Lightning" Talks

Overview of process and aims for this session

Serina Diniega (MPO/JPL)

April 16, 2020

White Papers

- One of the most important ways for members of the science community to participate in the decadal survey was via submission of white papers.
- A total of 199 white papers were received in September of last year, with 4935 total authors/endorsers.
- White papers were assessed in detail by the panels, and folded into all panel activities.

Decadal Survey White Papers

- Topics can include high-priority science questions, useful resources or investigation approaches, technology concepts or needs, instrument or mission concepts, state of the profession, etc.
- Generated by a primary author and co-author(s); Supported by signatories.
- Submission deadline is July 4 to [this NASEM DS link](#).

Decadal Survey White Papers

- Topics can include high-priority science questions, useful resources or investigation approaches, technology concepts or needs, instrument or mission concepts, state of the profession, etc.
- Generated by a primary author and co-author(s); Supported by signatories.
- Submission deadline is July 4 to [this NASEM DS link](#).
- While all white papers are welcome and anyone can author a white paper – we’ve also received advice to collaborate so as to overall decrease the number of white papers the DS panel will need to read.
 - In 2019, 573 science and 294 Activities, Projects, and State of the Profession (APC) white papers were submitted to the Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics. (867 total)

Point of today's presentations

- MEPAG sought to provide a forum where people could advertise their white paper topics and find collaborators.
- The goal is to facilitate community communication → collaboration and strategizing.
 - This seemed especially important with lack of in-person conferences.
- By seeing what some Mars folk are working on, we hope you will:
 - Join an effort that seems aligned with your topic of interest?
 - Bring a different perspective into an effort related to your interests, to broaden a white paper?
 - Identify an important area that is currently missing, and initiate that effort?

The Program (1/2)

We will hear about

- 34 white paper topics
- 3 NASA-funded Planetary Mission Concept Studies (PMCS)

The aims are:

- White paper topic presenters will advertise their effort and solicit contributions.
 - Each has 2min/1 slide now + a brief file posted on the [MEPAG meeting page](#).
 - Questions to clarify the topic and efforts are encouraged.
 - Actual construction of the white papers should happen outside of this meeting – see the identified Point of Contact in their brief file.
- For the community to look across the white papers and PMCS reports and comment on what's covered and what might be missing.

The Program (2/2)

To provide some structure, we organized talks into 3 sessions:

- Astrobiology and Subsurface Investigations
- Mars Atmosphere & Surface Processes, and Climate Record
- Human Resources, and New Technologies and Mission Types

Each session may include topics focused on a science-question, useful resource or methodology, mission concepts, architectural perspectives, etc. – and with a focus on Mars or comparative planetology.

The Program (2/2)

To provide some structure, we organized talks into 3 sessions:

- Astrobiology and Subsurface Investigations
- Mars Atmosphere & Surface Processes, and Climate Record
- Human Resources, and New Technologies and Mission Types

Each session may include topics focused on a science-question, useful resource or methodology, mission concepts, architectural perspectives, etc. – and with a focus on Mars or comparative planetology.

Time-permitting, questions can be asked immediately following a lightning talk or during the general discussion period at the end of each session.

- If we get off-schedule, we aim to re-align with the agenda at the start of each session.

A dramatic photograph of a lightning storm. The sky is dark, with a large, bright purple and white lightning bolt striking down from the upper left towards the center. Numerous smaller, branching lightning bolts are visible across the sky, creating a complex, web-like pattern. The bottom of the image shows a dark silhouette of a landscape, possibly hills or mountains. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

Any questions?