

UPDATED 2nd Information Circular
38th / Spring 2020 MEPAG Meeting
April 15-17, 2020
~8:30am-1:00pm PDT / 11:30am-4:00pm EDT
VIRTUAL MEETING

Members of the Mars community,

In response to community concerns and evolving policies/recommendations against travel, we are converting the April Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) Meeting from an in-person meeting to a fully virtual meeting. This meeting (**#38**) will be held over the same dates (April 15-17, 2020), within 8:30 am-1:00 pm PDT each day.

The main foci of this MEPAG meeting remain preparation for the next Planetary Science Decadal Survey, the next steps in Mars Sample Return, and other Mars exploration plans within NASA and other space agencies. Thus, the meeting agenda will continue to include many timely reports and discussion items, including:

- Major reports from HQ,
- A discussion of the MSR campaign, of Ice Mapper, and of other issues surrounding the recently released President's budget, and
- A community forum to talk about issues and findings.

Additionally, the agenda will include an opportunity to discuss community-based white paper topics. The format of this portion of the agenda is still in works, as we seek ways to mitigate the limitations of remote interaction with respect to small- and large-group discussion. Updated instructions for submission of a white paper topic are in this updated 2nd Information Circular; the deadline for submission remains March 19.

Suggestions for how we can better convey information and foster participation by the community within a fully virtual meeting are welcome, and can be sent to mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov. At this time, we are looking into Zoom and WebEx remote meeting platforms, and different agenda/discussion structures. The updated agenda will be posted by April 1, along with connection information.

As usual, all members of the Mars science community including our international colleagues are invited to attend, and I look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,
Dr. R. Aileen Yingst
MEPAG Chair

PS: Please remember to cancel any travel arrangements you made, associated with this meeting!

If you have a suggestion for the agenda or a question about the meeting, please email mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov.

**UPDATED Information about the 38th MEPAG Meeting
Wednesday-Friday April 15-17, 2020**

Important deadlines

March 19: White paper concept submission deadline

April 1: Community Forum topic suggestion deadline

(The Early Career travel grant is cancelled, and no registration is necessary.
If you booked within the hotel block room or made any other travel arrangements, don't forget to cancel your reservations.)

An updated agenda and connection information for MEPAG Meeting 38 will be posted by April 1.

Current DRAFT High-level agenda for the virtual meeting

April 15

- MEPAG and NASA updates
- MEP plans going forward, including MSR, Ice Mapper, and other budget issues

April 16

- MEPAG support for and participation in Planetary Decadal Survey preparations
- White paper concept presentations and discussion

April 17

- Reports from Mars missions
- Community forum
- MEPAG Findings

To share your white paper concept with the Mars community

A focus of this MEPAG meeting is preparation for the next Decadal Survey. MEPAG seeks to facilitate collaboration between Mars community members on white papers by creating a forum for advertisement of and discussion about white paper concepts. Such white papers will constitute a key input to the Decadal Survey committee, and are anticipated to span areas of science investigation, mission concepts, projects and activities in support of planetary exploration, and the state of the planetary science community. For more information on the structure of white papers and the Decadal Survey's scope and schedule, see the [Task Statement](#). Additionally, general information and resources for the MEPAG community are [linked from the MEPAG website](#) – including links to online spreadsheets where people have listed white paper concepts within all areas of planetary science.

As before: To request a presentation spot on a white paper concept, please submit the following information to this google form, by **5pm PDT Thursday, March 19, 2020**:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeeznQfN3i1EYcwECtklz2jsoCNZCmjKS-Zvm_aXI70xhaZjQ/viewform

- (Tentative) white paper title
- Point of Contact for a presentation on this white paper concept
- Existing author list
- Brief description of the intended white paper's content (no more than 1 page)

We currently have space for up to 60 presenters; these spots will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. The MEPAG Executive Committee will review all requests, but will not edit or filter beyond ensuring the submitted white paper concept topic is appropriate for this forum.

UPDATED: White paper concept presenters at MEPAG 38 will be provided:

- Brief time (likely ~1-min lightning talk, but TBD) during the regular agenda to advertise their topic to the community.
- The opportunity to share a 1-2page informational .pdf on their white paper concept via the MEPAG website. Content of this document should include the information supplied within your initial submission (or updated versions of it) as well as clarification of what involvement, if any, you are seeking from other members of the community.

More detailed instructions will be sent to presenters, by March 23.

To suggest a topic for the Community Forum

As before: During MEPAG Meeting 38, time has been allocated for community interests and questions to be presented and discussed. This is an opportunity for community members and groups within the community to introduce issues for discussion that are of general interest or concern to the Mars community *but that have not been raised previously*.

To request a topic for this discussion, please email MEPAGmeetingOs@jpl.nasa.gov (with subject line: MEPAG 38 Community Forum) by **Wednesday, April 1, 2020**. In that email, be sure to include, as appropriate, context for the topic and suggestions of person(s) (potentially but not necessarily including yourself) who could speak about the concern or question. The MEPAG Executive Committee will review all suggestions and then follow-up with suggesters during the next week. Not all suggestions may be incorporated into the program, due to time constraints and a desire to ensure topics raised at the MEPAG meeting are presented in a balanced and informative manner (e.g., a topic may be delayed to a later meeting if sufficient information is not available by mid-April), but all suggesters will get a response.