

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

January 2022

Mars Science News

Save the Date: MEPAG Virtual Meeting #14 February 2nd & 3rd, 2022

The next MEPAG Virtual Meeting (#14) will be held Wednesday & Thursday, February 2-3, at 1 - 5 p.m. EST (10 a.m. - 2 p.m. PDT). Tentative topics to be covered are: 1) MEPAG updates, 2) MEP/MEPO Status, 3) Ice Mapper MDT Status, 4) KISS workshop report on low-cost Mars missions, and 5) Mars mission status, including Perseverance. There will also be an extended discussion about possible MEPAG activities for the coming year. More details, including webex link, will be forthcoming in a later email.

AbSciCon 2022 Student Travel Grants Available

The NASA Astrobiology Program and Mars Program Office are funding a limited number of travel grants to qualified students to attend the conference. Reimbursable costs include transportation (airfare or mileage in one's personal vehicle, compact car rental, fuel costs, and shuttle ride(s) – as allowable under government regulations), lodging, meals and incidental expenses, and the conference registration fee. In most cases, actual expenses will exceed the funding provided. Students who are awarded travel grants may be asked to assist conference organizers with tasks during the conference. These tasks will not interfere with their ability to participate in technical sessions. Applications are due January 26th, 2022. Further information and application form can be accessed at the [Student Travel Grant webpage](#).

MEPO Student Travel Grants Available for 7th International Planetary Dunes Workshop

The NASA Mars Exploration Program Office has announced that travel funding awards are available for up to 2 U.S. undergraduate and graduate students, for reimbursement of up to \$1200 in travel expenses, to attend the [7th International Planetary Dunes Workshop](#). Students who are U.S. citizens, legal residents, or attending a U.S. institution on a valid visa; are at least 18 years of age; are engaged in Mars-related research relevant to this workshop; and have submitted an abstract for presentation, are eligible for this program. Applications are due by March 5, 2022. For more information and the application, see the [MEPAG Student Opportunities webpage](#).

Low-Cost Science Mission Concept for Mars Exploration – Date Change

The conference, originally planned for Jan 11-13, 2022, is now scheduled for March 29-31, 2022 and will be held at the same venue, the Westin Pasadena Hotel, in Pasadena, CA. Further detailed information on the re-scheduled meeting is posted on the [conference website](#).

If you booked a hotel room through the Westin-Pasadena *within the block* of rooms, those rooms were cancelled. The new room block is offered to you at the government rate of \$182.00 per night. The new reservation link is here: [Book your group rate for JPL Low Cost Mars 2022](#). Last day to book is Monday, March 7, 2022.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Conference
January 11	LPSC 2022 53rd Lunar & Planetary Science Conference – Abstract Deadline
January 12	EGU 22 – Abstract Deadline
January 15	Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR 2022) – Abstract Deadline

January 19	AbSciCon 2022 – Abstract Deadline
January 22	Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG) Meeting - Registration Deadline
January 26	AbSciCon 2022 – Student Grant Applications Deadline
February 3	Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2022 – Early Abstract Deadline
February 11	COSPAR 2022 – Abstract Deadline
February 14	Geological Society of America 2022 Northeastern Section – Early Registration Deadline
February 17	Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2022 – Abstract Deadline
February 17	Science Objectives for Human Exploration of Mars Workshop – Abstract Deadline
February 23	Advancing IDEA in Planetary Science – Abstract Deadline
March 5	7th International Planetary Dunes Workshop – Student Grant Applications Deadline
March 20	Low-Cost Science Mission Concepts for Mars Exploration – Registration Deadline
March 25	Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics – Abstract Deadline

Upcoming Conferences

- Note that for civil servants and those under contract with NASA, foreign and NASA-sponsored conferences generally need to be forecasted via NCTS. Forecasting to NCTS is usually due 60 days in advance for domestic meetings. If you are unsure whether an event is a conference or not, or when the deadline may be, please consult with your NASA Center conference forecasting/travel unit.
- The situation for COVID-19 continues to evolve, so here are conferences with both in-person and virtual formats. It is advisable to check with the websites of the conference and confirm with the organization of any changes.

2022

UPDATED	January 23-28, 2022 Oxnard, CA, USA	Origins of Life Conference - Challenging Paradigms in Prebiotic Chemistry https://www.grc.org/origins-of-life-conference/2022/
UPDATED	January 24-25, 2022 Virtual	Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG) Meeting https://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/
	February 2-3, 2022 Virtual	MEPAG Virtual Meeting #14
NEW	March 5-12, 2022 Big Sky, MT	IEEE Aerospace Conference 2022 https://www.aeroconf.org/
	March 7-11, 2022 The Woodlands, TX, USA	LPSC 2022 53rd Lunar & Planetary Science Conference https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2022/
	March 20-22, 2022 Lancaster, PA, USA	Geological Society of America Northeast Section Meeting 2022 https://tinyurl.com/GSA2022NE
UPDATED	March 29-31, 2022 Pasadena, CA, USA/Hybrid	Low-Cost Science Mission Concept for Mars Exploration NCTS:45344-22 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lowcostmars2022/
	April 3-8, 2022 Vienna Austria	EGU 2022 https://www.egu22.eu/
	April 25-29, 2022 Virtual	Advancing IDEA in Planetary Science https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/advancingidea2022/
NEW	May 2-5, 2022 Denver, CO, USA	Science Objectives for Human Exploration of Mars Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marsexploration2022/

2022 continued

	May 15-20, 2022 Atlanta, GA USA	AbSciCon 2022 https://www.agu.org/abscicon
NEW	May 17-19, 2022 Washington, D.C., USA	The Humans to Mars Summit (H2M) H2M Summit
	May 17-20, 2022 Alamosa, Colorado	The 7th International Planetary Dunes Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2022/
	May 22-27, 2022 Chiba, Japan	Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2022 https://tinyurl.com/jpgumeeting
	June 12-17, 2022 Golden Colorado, USA	Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR 22) https://learn.mines.edu/gpr2022/
	June 14-17, 2022 Paris, France	7th Mars Atmosphere Modelling & Observations http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2022/
	June 21-23, 2022 Madrid, Spain	Planetary Science Informatics & Data Analytics Conference https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/psida-2022/home
NEW	June 28-July 1, 2022 Boise, Idaho	Optimizing Planetary In Situ Surface-Atmosphere Interaction Investigation https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/planetinsitu2022/
	July 4-8, 2022 Oxford, UK	Rocky Worlds II https://www.rockyworlds.org
	May 2-5, 2022 Denver, Colorado, USA	Science Objectives for Human Exploration of Mars Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marsexploration2022/
	July 16-24, 2022 Athens, Greece	COSPAR 2022 44th Scientific Assembly https://www.cosparathens2022.org/
	July 25-29, 2022 Hybrid/Pasadena, CA, USA	2022 Sagan Summer Workshop: Exoplanet Science in the Gaia Era https://nexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2022/
	September 18-23, 2022 Granada, Spain	Europlanet Science Congress (EPSC) https://www.europlanet-society.org/european-planetary-science-congress/
	November 7-13, 2022 Edinburgh, Scotland	Forming and Exploring Habitable Worlds https://www.habitableworlds.co.uk

Seasons on Mars

	MY36	MY37	MY38	MY39
Start of Northern Spring / L _s 0	02/07/2021	12/26/2022	11/12/2024	09/30/2026
Start of Northern Summer / L _s 90	08/25/2021	07/13/2023	05/29/2025	04/17/2027
Start of Northern Autumn / L _s 180	02/24/2022	01/12/2024	11/29/2025	10/17/2027
Start of Northern Winter / L _s 270	07/21/2022	06/07/2024	04/25/2026	03/12/2028

U.S. Federal holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings



Editors

Rich Zurek
 Michael Mischna
 Jonathan Bapst
 Brandi Carrier
 Barbara Saltzberg

Richard.W.Zurek@jpl.nasa.gov
michael.a.mischna@jpl.nasa.gov
jonathan.bapst@jpl.nasa.gov
Brandi.L.Carrier@jpl.nasa.gov
Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov

818-354-3725
 818-393-4775
 818-354-2357
 818-354-9956
 818-354-0226

Please send Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's newsletter to:

Barbara Saltzberg at Barbara.a.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov

This newsletter (and all previous months') is also posted on the MEPAG website: <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>

If you wish to withdraw from the electronic mailing list that this newsletter is sent out to, please send an email from your email account to mepag-removesignup@jpl.nasa.gov.

To be added to this list and receive this monthly newsletter and other Mars Science announcements, or to update your MEPAG directory information (which contains the email list used for sending out this newsletter), send an email to mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov from the email account you'd like added, with your full name and institution.