

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

February 2021

## Mars Science News

### MEPAG Virtual Meeting 11 Presentations and Recording Now Available

The final meeting recording and presentations from MEPAG Virtual Meeting #11 are now available on the [meeting website](#). Thanks to all who participated. Agenda topics included status updates from MEPAG, MEP, and the MSR Program, as well as an overview of the organizational structure of MEP and MSR at JPL and at NASA Headquarters. Other topics included updates on the current Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey Mars Panel activities, NASA perspectives on future exploration science at Mars, and HEO and Humans to Mars activities.

**MEPAG Note:** *Clarification on the recently emailed reference to an ESA AO for ExoMars 2022 Mission Interdisciplinary Scientists and Guest Investigator:*

*Mandatory Letters of Intent have already been submitted to ESA from PI's from eligible member states. The endorsement letter is for U. S. scientists already associated with the proposals due February 15. (This is not a joint AO. It is a statement that NASA has set aside some funds to support U. S. participation in proposals selected by ESA.)*

**Congratulations** to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Mars Mission *Hope*, which entered Mars orbit today, on February 9, 2021. We look forward to exciting results from this innovative addition to a growing constellation of Mars orbiters.

**Next up:** China's *Tianwen-1* orbiter/lander enters Mars orbit on February 10. After scouting out a proper landing site, the lander will separate from its orbiter and descend to the surface, perhaps as early as April or May. The spacecraft demonstrated its imaging capability with a beautiful image taken on approach on Feb. 5.

**And then:** It's *Perseverance* turn, with its entry, descent, and landing on February 18.

Best wishes to all!

### Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Conference
March 31	EGU General Assembly 2021 – Early Registration Deadline
April 14	5 <sup>th</sup> Planetary Data Workshop – 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.
- We have noted conference changes we are aware of – but the impact of COVID-19 continues to evolve. If we show a conference as still happening in the next few months, it is advisable to check the website and confirm with conference organizers.
- VM = virtual meeting.

2021 First-Second Quarter		
	March 6-13, 2021 Virtual Meeting	<b>IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> <a href="https://www.aeroconf.org/">https://www.aeroconf.org/</a>
	March 15-19 2021 Virtual Meeting	<b>52nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2021/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2021/</a>
	April 19-30, 2021 Virtual Meeting	<b>EGU General Assembly 2021 (vEGU21)</b> <a href="https://www.egu2021.eu/">https://www.egu2021.eu/</a>
	May 17-20, 2021 Glasgow, Scotland	<b>IEEE Int'l Instrumentation &amp; Measurement Technology Conf. (I2MTC 2021)</b> <a href="https://i2mtc2020.ieee-ims.org/">https://i2mtc2020.ieee-ims.org/</a>
<b>UPDATE</b>	<b>POSTPONED</b> Orleans, France	<b>Mercury 2020, Current and future science of the innermost planet</b> <a href="https://mercury2020.ias.u-psud.fr/main_1st.php">https://mercury2020.ias.u-psud.fr/main_1st.php</a>
	June 28-July 2, 2021 Flagstaff, AZ	<b>5th Planetary Data Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/planetdata2021/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/planetdata2021/</a>

Seasons on Mars

	MY36	MY37	MY38
Start of Northern Spring / L <sub>s</sub> 0	02/07/2021	12/26/2022	11/12/24
Start of Northern Summer / L <sub>s</sub> 90	08/25/2021	07/13/2023	05/29/25
Start of Northern Autumn / L <sub>s</sub> 180	02/24/2022	01/12/2024	11/29/25
Start of Northern Winter / L <sub>s</sub> 270	07/21/2022	06/07/2024	04/25/26

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



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

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

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