

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

April 2020

## Mars Science News

### MEPAG Meeting 38 (April 15-17, 2020) Agenda for Virtual Meeting Now Available

The April Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) Meeting has been converted to a fully virtual meeting, to be held **April 15-17, 2020**, 8:30 am-1:00 pm PDT each day. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom, with additional support from SSERVI; connection information will be emailed out and added to the [meeting website](#) before April 14. All members of the Mars science community including our international colleagues are invited to attend.

The high-level agenda is listed below (and was first presented in the [updated 2<sup>nd</sup> Information Circular](#)); the full draft agenda was emailed out and will be added to the meeting website by April 1.

**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

\*We remind the community that **April 1** is the deadline for submitting suggested topics for the Community forum to MEPAG Chair, R. Aileen Yingst; see the [2<sup>nd</sup> Information Circular](#) for more information.

### NASA Science Division Updates to the Community during SSB Meeting on March 31

The NASA Science Division Directors will provide community updates on Tuesday, March 31, when they address the discipline committees of the National Academies' Space Studies Board (SSB) during Space Science Week 2020. During the updates, the Science Division Directors will discuss the [President's Fiscal Year 2021 budget request for NASA Science](#) and other Division specific updates of NASA's science programs.

- NASA SMD Director of **Heliophysics** Nicola Fox will address the Committee on Solar and Space Physics (CSSP) at 11 am EDT / 8 am PDT on Tuesday, March 31.
- NASA SMD Acting Director of **Earth Science** Sandra Cauffman will address the Committee on Earth Sciences and Applications from Space (CESAS) at 11:30 am EDT / 8:30 am PDT on Tuesday, March 31.
- NASA SMD Director of **Astrophysics** Paul Hertz will address the Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics (CAA) at 12 noon EDT / 9 am PDT on Tuesday, March 31.
- NASA SMD Director of **Planetary Science** Lori Glaze will address the Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) at 4 pm EDT / 1 pm PDT on Tuesday, March 31.

For the complete agenda of the discipline committee meetings and instructions for connecting to the meetings, visit the Space Science Week 2020 homepage: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/03-31-2020/space-science-week-2020>.

### Preparation for the Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology

- New information is out for the Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/planetary-science-and-astrobiology-decadal-survey-2023-2032>. In particular, a page is up for white paper submission and the deadline is **July 4**. Additionally, information is posted about participation options for early career and senior graduate student community members.
- The MEPAG document summarizing general information and resources for Decadal Survey preparation has also been updated: [https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/DecadalSurvey/Info\\_PlanetaryDS2020\\_MEPAG.pdf](https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/DecadalSurvey/Info_PlanetaryDS2020_MEPAG.pdf).
- Beyond presentations and discussion that will occur on **April 16** at the [virtual MEPAG Meeting 38](#), there still are a few forums to facilitate advertisement of white paper topics and foster community collaboration within Decadal Survey preparation. All members of the Mars community are encouraged to view or add information to any/all of these sites.
  - LPI has a [centralized site](#) for advertisement of white paper ideas within all areas of planetary science. Posting a white paper topic idea to the LPI site enables one to reach the broader planetary community, and we recommend that Mars community members post white paper topics to that site and review that site regularly.
  - The **AAS Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS)** has set up a [Decadal Survey Information Hub](#). This site contains links to AG-specific sites, as well as a place to advertise white paper topics related to the "State of the Community."

- **MEPAG** has kept their [google spreadsheet](#) open to facilitate collaboration and communication regarding community-generated white papers.

## 2020 NASA Planetary Science Summer School Applications Due Date Extended to April 13

NASA is encouraging applications for its 32nd Annual Planetary Science Summer School. Offered by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, PSSS is a 3-month long early career development experience to help prepare the next generation of planetary science and engineering mission leaders, culminating in a weeklong “Team X” session at JPL and then presentation to a mock expert review board. Dates for this year’s two Planetary Science and two Heliophysics focused sessions and full application instructions are at <http://go.nasa.gov/missiondesignschools> . Applications are due by **April 13**.

Participants will learn the process of developing a hypothesis-driven robotic space mission in a concurrent engineering environment while getting an in-depth, first-hand look at mission design, life cycle, costs, schedule and the trade-offs inherent in each. Science and engineering doctoral candidates, recent Ph.D.s, postdocs, junior faculty, and certain master’s degree students, who are U.S. Citizens or legal permanent residents (and a very limited number of Foreign Nationals from non-designated countries), are eligible. Applicants from diverse backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply. Partial financial support is available for a limited number of individuals.

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

Due	Conference
April 1	<b>MEPAG Meeting 38 (virtual)</b> – Community Forum Topic Suggestion Deadline
April 3	<b>The Planetary CubeSats/SmallSats Symposium</b> – Abstract Deadline
April 3	<b>6th International Planetary Dunes Workshop</b> – Request Presentation Time Deadline
April 10	<b>Space Science in Context</b> – E-poster abstract submission deadline
April 13	<b>NASA Planetary Science Summer School</b> – Application Deadline
April 16	<b>2020 Annual Meeting of Planetary Geologic Mappers</b> - Abstract Deadline
May 1	<b>7th Mars Atmosphere Modelling and Observations conference</b> – Abstract Deadline
May 1	<b>The Planetary CubeSats/SmallSats Symposium</b> – Registration Deadline for non-US Participants
May 2	<b>Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> – [updated] E-poster Submission Deadline
May 8	<b>8th European Lunar Symposium</b> – Registration Deadline
May 13	<b>Europlanet Science Congress</b> – Abstract Deadline
May 15	<b>The Planetary CubeSats/SmallSats Symposium</b> – Registration Deadline for United States Citizens/Green card
May 21	<b>11th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting</b> – Abstract Deadline
June 6	<b>2020 Annual Meeting of Planetary Geologic Mappers</b> – Registration Deadline
June 25	<b>Ocean Worlds 5</b> – Abstract Deadline
July 4	<b>Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology</b> – White Paper 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.**

Second Quarter, 2020		
 <b>VM</b>	April 15-17, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>MEPAG Meeting #38</b> NCTS# 41124-20 <a href="https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm">https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm</a>
<b>CANCELLED</b>	April 20-23, 2020 Seattle, WA, USA	<b>ASCE Earth &amp; Space Conference Symposium 2: Exploration and Utilization of Extra-Terrestrial Bodies</b> <a href="https://www.earthspaceconference.org/symposium-2">https://www.earthspaceconference.org/symposium-2</a>
<b>1/2-day VM &amp; Postponed</b>	April 28-30, 2020 (exact date TBD) Virtual Meeting	<b>2020 In Situ Science &amp; Instrumentation Workshop for Europa and Ocean Worlds</b> <a href="https://www.europa-insitu.caltech.edu">https://www.europa-insitu.caltech.edu</a>
	May 3-8, 2020 Les Houches, France	<b>Workshop Mars V</b> <a href="https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/planet-mars-5/home">https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/planet-mars-5/home</a>
<b>UPDATE: VM</b>	May 4-8, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>EGU2020: Sharing Geoscience Online</b> <a href="https://www.equ2020.eu/">https://www.equ2020.eu/</a>
<b>UPDATE: VM</b>	May 11-12, 2020	<b>Interplanetary Small Sat Conference</b>

	Virtual Meeting	<a href="http://www.intersmallsatconference.com/">http://www.intersmallsatconference.com/</a>
<b>UPDATE: VM</b>	May 12-13, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>6<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Dunes Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/</a> Request presentation time <a href="#">here</a> by April 3.
<b>UPDATE: VM</b> 	May 12-14, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>8th European Lunar Symposium (ELS)</b> Only registered participants will receive the participation link <a href="https://els2020.arc.nasa.gov/">https://els2020.arc.nasa.gov/</a>
<b>NEW!</b>	May 14, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>Space Science in Context</b> <a href="https://spacescienceincontext.wordpress.com/">https://spacescienceincontext.wordpress.com/</a>
	June 8-11, 2020 Paris, France	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Mars Atmosphere Modelling and Observations Conference</b> <a href="http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2020/">http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2020/</a>
<b>CANCELLED</b>	<del>June 9-12, 2020</del> Monterey, CA, USA	<b>17th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW)</b> <a href="https://www.ippw2020.org/">https://www.ippw2020.org/</a>
<b>1-day VM [TBC]</b>	June 16-17, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>2020 Annual Meeting of Planetary Geologic Mappers</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/pgm2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/pgm2020/</a>
<b>CANCELLED</b>	<del>June 22-24, 2020</del> Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain	<b>Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics 2020 Conference</b> <a href="https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/psida-2020">https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/psida-2020</a>
	June 25-26, 2020 Greenbelt, MD	<b>Planetary CubeSats/SmallSats Symposia</b> <a href="https://cubesats.gsfc.nasa.gov/symposium.html">https://cubesats.gsfc.nasa.gov/symposium.html</a>
<b>CANCELLED</b>	<del>June 28 - July 4, 2020</del> Hongcheon, Korea	<b>Asia Oceania Geosciences Conference 2020</b> <a href="http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2020/public.asp?page=home.html">http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2020/public.asp?page=home.html</a>

Third-Fourth Quarter, 2020		
<b>NEW!</b>	July 8-10, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>7<sup>th</sup> NASA Exploration Science Virtual Forum</b> <a href="https://lunarscience.arc.nasa.gov/nesf2020/">https://lunarscience.arc.nasa.gov/nesf2020/</a>
	July, 2020	<b>Launch window for the UAE EMM orbiter (Hope)</b>
	July 17-August 5, 2020	<b>Launch window for the NASA Mars 2020 rover (Perseverance)</b>
	August 5-7, 2020 Honolulu, HI, USA	<b>11th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/crater2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/crater2020/</a>
	August 9-14, 2020 Glasgow, Scotland	<b>83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meteoritical Society Meeting (METSOC 2020)</b> <a href="https://www.metsoc2020.com/">https://www.metsoc2020.com/</a>
<b>UPDATE: New Date</b>	August 19-21, 2020 Saint-Hubert, Quebec	<b>Women in Space 2020</b> <a href="http://www.womeninspacecon.com/">http://www.womeninspacecon.com/</a>
<b>UPDATE: New Date</b>	August 31- September 1, 2020 Washington, DC, USA	<b>Human to Mars Summit</b> <a href="https://www.exploremars.org/">https://www.exploremars.org/</a>
<b>NEW!</b>	September 8-9, 2020 Woods Hole, MA	<b>Ocean Worlds 5</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/oceanworlds2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/oceanworlds2020/</a>
	September 14-18, 2020 Tokyo, Japan	<b>NASA Astrobiology Graduate Conference (AbGradCon)</b> <a href="http://abgradcon.org">http://abgradcon.org</a>
	September 27- October 2, 2020 Granada, Spain	<b>Europlanet Science Congress</b> <a href="https://www.epsc2020.eu/">https://www.epsc2020.eu/</a>
	October 5-8, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	<b>Martian Enigmas 2020</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigmas2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigmas2020/</a>
	October 25-28, 2020 Montreal, Québec, Canada	<b>GSA Annual Meeting</b> <a href="https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home">https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home</a>
<b>NEW!</b>	November 17-19, 2020 Baltimore, MD, USA	<b>3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/interstellarprobe2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/interstellarprobe2020/</a>
<b>NEW!</b>	November 18-20, 2020 Tokyo, Japan	<b>5th International Workshop on Instrumentation</b> <a href="https://www2.rikkyo.ac.jp/web/ipm2020/">https://www2.rikkyo.ac.jp/web/ipm2020/</a>
<b>NEW!</b>	December 7-11, 2020 San Francisco, CA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting">https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting</a>

Postponements (listed in alphabetical order, with new dates given as known)		
May 2021	Alamosa, CO, USA	7 <sup>th</sup> International Planetary Dunes Workshop (2020 was the 6 <sup>th</sup> ) <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/</a>
January 28-February 4, 2021	Sydney, Australia	43 <sup>rd</sup> COSPAR Scientific Assembly (COSPAR 2021, had been COSPAR 2020) <a href="https://www.cospar-assembly.org/">https://www.cospar-assembly.org/</a>
April 12-16, 2021 [TBC]	Canary Islands, Spain	Biennial European Astrobiology Conference (BEACON) <a href="http://europeanastrobiology.eu/BEACON2020/index.html">http://europeanastrobiology.eu/BEACON2020/index.html</a>
	Denver, CO, USA	Lunar Surface Science Workshop <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarsurface2020">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarsurface2020</a>
June 8-11, 2021	Orleans, France	Mercury 2020, Current and future science of the innermost planet <a href="https://mercury2020.ias.u-psud.fr/main_1st.php">https://mercury2020.ias.u-psud.fr/main_1st.php</a>
	Phoenix, AZ, USA	Preventing Harassment in Science: Building a community of Practice Toward Meaningful Change <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/anti-harassment2020/organizers/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/anti-harassment2020/organizers/</a>
	Boulder, CO, USA	Titan Through Time Workshop V <a href="https://www.titanthroughtime.org/">https://www.titanthroughtime.org/</a>

## Seasons on Mars

	MY35	MY36	MY37
Start of Northern Spring / L <sub>s</sub> 0	03/23/2019	02/07/2021	12/26/2022
Start of Northern Summer / L <sub>s</sub> 90	10/08/2019	08/25/2021	07/13/2023
Start of Northern Autumn / L <sub>s</sub> 180	04/08/2020	02/24/2022	01/24/2024
Start of Northern Winter / L <sub>s</sub> 270	09/02/2020	07/21/2022	06/07/2024

## Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Good Friday	4/10/20	4/2/2021	04/15/2022	4/7/2023
Rosh Hashanah	9/19/20	9/7/2021	09/26/2022	9/16/2023
Yom Kippur	9/28/20	9/16/2021	10/05/2022	9/25/2023
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/12/20	10/11/2021	10/10/2022	10/9/2023
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/26/20	11/25/2021	11/24/2022	11/24/2023
Christmas Day	12/25/20	12/25/2021	12/25/2022	12/25/2023

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

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