

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

May 2020

Mars Science News

MEPAG Meeting 38 Summary and Findings Now Available

The final meeting summary and findings from MEPAG Meeting 38 are now available on the [meeting website](#). Thanks to all who participated. The white paper session was a special treat! All approved presentations and recordings from the Meeting #38 are posted there for your convenience. Based on the meeting, the MEPAG Steering Committee finalized 7 new findings or major updates. These ranged from commending the progress on Mars Sample Return to a finding that the proposed budget reductions/cancellation of ongoing Mars missions "would result in major, perhaps unrecoverable, losses for science." The detailed findings are also on the [meeting website](#).

Planetary Mission Concept Studies Workshop

The Planetary Mission Concepts Studies Workshop previously scheduled for March 15, 2020 at LPSC 51 will now take place virtually on May 26–27, 2020.

As part of NASA's preparations for the 2023 Planetary Science Decadal Survey, proposals to conduct mission concept studies in planetary science were solicited through ROSES-2018, and 11 were selected by the Planetary Science Division in 2019. The selected studies span a range of target bodies across the solar system. The planetary missions that are the focus of these studies are envisioned to have a cost greater than a Discovery mission cost cap (Discovery FY19 cap cost \$500M Phases A through D), not including launch costs. The results of these studies will be provided by the individual teams to NASA as input for the 2023 Decadal Survey. An overview of each of the selected Planetary Mission Concept Studies (PMCS) will be presented during this workshop.

The workshop will be conducted as a live webcast, and a link to the workshop will be posted on the website the week of the meeting. More information is available at <https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/pmcs2020/>.

Preparation for the Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology

- Up to date information for the Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology can be found at: <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 (as of March 27, 2020): https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/DecadalSurvey/Info_PlanetaryDS2020_MEPAG.pdf.
- Beyond presentations and discussion that occurred 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.
 - **(*Updated*)** MEPAG has updated their [google spreadsheet](#) to facilitate collaboration and communication regarding community-generated white papers. All previous sheets have been preserved, but there is a new [Sheet](#) available to allow for [sharing of links to draft white papers, sign-up sheets, and other information](#). Submissions to this sheet can be made using this [Google Form](#). [Previously entered information will NOT automatically transfer to this sheet](#), but we hope this will provide a useful medium to link to any platform you are using to collect co-authors or signatories.
 - 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."

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Conference
May 8	8th European Lunar Symposium – Registration Deadline
May 21	11th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting – Abstract Deadline
June 6	2020 Annual Meeting of Planetary Geologic Mappers – Registration Deadline
June 25	Ocean Worlds 5 – Abstract Deadline
July 4	Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology – White Paper Deadline
July 22	11th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting – Registration Deadline
July 29	2020 AGU Fall Meeting – 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.

Second Quarter		
	May 3-8, 2020 Les Houches, France	Workshop Mars V https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/planet-mars-5/home
	May 4-8, 2020 Virtual Meeting	EGU2020: Sharing Geoscience Online https://www.egu2020.eu/
NEW!	May 7, 2020 1:30-3:00 ET / 10:30-12:00 PT	2023-2032 Writing White Papers for the Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey National Academics of Sciences Engineering Medicine
	May 11-12, 2020 Virtual Meeting	Interplanetary Small Sat Conference http://www.intersmallsatconference.com/
	May 12-13, 2020 Virtual Meeting	6th International Planetary Dunes Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/ Request presentation time here by April 3.
	May 12-14, 2020 Virtual Meeting	8th European Lunar Symposium (ELS) Only registered participants will receive the participation link https://els2020.arc.nasa.gov/
	May 14, 2020 Virtual Meeting	Space Science in Context https://spacescienceincontext.wordpress.com/
NEW!	May 26-27, 2020 Live Broadcast	Planetary Mission Concept Studies https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/pmcs2020/
CANCELLED	June 8-11, 2020	7th Mars Atmosphere Modelling & Observations Conference NCTS 41490-20 http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2020/
1-day VM [TBC]	June 16-17, 2020 Virtual Meeting	2020 Annual Meeting of Planetary Geologic Mappers https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/pgm2020/
CANCELLED	June 25-26, 2020 Greenbelt, MD	Planetary CubeSats/SmallSats Symposia https://cubesats.gsfc.nasa.gov/symposium.html

Third-Fourth Quarter		
	July 8-10, 2020 Virtual Meeting	7th NASA Exploration Science Virtual Forum https://lunarscience.arc.nasa.gov/nesf2020/
	July, 2020	Launch window for the UAE EMM orbiter (Hope)
	July 17-August 5, 2020	Launch window for the NASA Mars 2020 rover (Perseverance)
	August 5-7, 2020 Honolulu, HI, USA	11th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/crater2020/
CANCELLED	August 9-14, 2020 Glasgow, Scotland	83rd Annual Meteoritical Society Meeting (METSOC 2020) https://www.metsoc2020.com/
	August 19-21, 2020 Saint-Hubert, Quebec	Women in Space 2020 http://www.womeninspacecon.com/
	August 31- September 1, 2020 Washington, DC, USA	Human to Mars Summit https://www.exploremars.org/
	September 8-9, 2020 Woods Hole, MA	Ocean Worlds 5 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/oceanworlds2020/
	September 27- October 2, 2020 Granada, Spain	Europlanet Science Congress https://www.epsc2020.eu/
	October 5-8, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	Martian Enigmas 2020 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigmas2020/
NEW!	October 18-21, 2020 Pasadena, CA, USA	International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Automation in Space (i-SAIRAS 2020) https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/isairas2020/
	October 25-28, 2020 Montreal, Québec, Canada	GSA Annual Meeting https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home
	November 17-19, 2020 Baltimore, MD, USA	3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/interstellarprobe2020/
	November 18-20, 2020 Tokyo, Japan	5th International Workshop on Instrumentation https://www2.rikkyo.ac.jp/web/ipm2020/
	December 7-11, 2020 San Francisco, CA	AGU Fall Meeting https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting

Postponements (listed in alphabetical order, with new dates given as known)		
May 2021	Alamosa, CO, USA	7th International Planetary Dunes Workshop (2020 was the 6th) https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/
January 28-February 4, 2021	Sydney, Australia	43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly (COSPAR 2021, had been COSPAR 2020) https://www.cospar-assembly.org/
April 12-16, 2021 [TBC]	Canary Islands, Spain	Biennial European Astrobiology Conference (BEACON) http://europeanastrobiology.eu/BEACON2020/index.html
	Denver, CO, USA	Lunar Surface Science Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarsurface2020
June 8-11, 2021	Orleans, France	Mercury 2020, Current and future science of the innermost planet https://mercury2020.ias.u-psud.fr/main_1st.php
April 9-11, 2021	Tokyo, Japan	NASA Astrobiology Graduate Conference (AbGradCon) http://abgradcon.org
	Phoenix, AZ, USA	Preventing Harassment in Science: Building a community of Practice Toward Meaningful Change https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/anti-harassment2020/organizers/
	Boulder, CO, USA	Titan Through Time Workshop V https://www.titanthroughtime.org/

Seasons on Mars

	MY35	MY36	MY37
Start of Northern Spring / L _s 0	03/23/2019	02/07/2021	12/26/2022
Start of Northern Summer / L _s 90	10/08/2019	08/25/2021	07/13/2023
Start of Northern Autumn / L _s 180	04/08/2020	02/24/2022	01/24/2024
Start of Northern Winter / L _s 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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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.

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