

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

August 2020

Mars Science News

On to Mars: Wow! Three missions to Mars were successfully launched in July and are on their way to Mars, arriving in February 2021:

- (UAE) Emirates Mars Mission Hope (*Al Amal*) 19 July 2020 (Orbiter)
- (China) *Tianwen-1* 23 July 2020 (Orbiter/Lander/Rover)
- (USA) *Perseverance* 30 July 2020 (Rover/Helicopter)

Decadal Survey: For consideration by the Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023-2032.

- July 15: Approximately 70 white papers (out of ~350 total) addressed Mars in the first round of white paper submittals
- August 15: Mission concept white papers due
- September 15: All other white papers due, including those on the state of the profession

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Conference
August 4	Int'l Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Automation in Space – Abstract Deadline
August 4	GSA 2020 Annual Meeting – Abstract Deadline
August 15	Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology – Mission Concept White Papers Deadline
September 1	VEXAG Annual Meeting – Abstract Deadline
September 3	3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop – Abstract Deadline
September 15	Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology – All Other White Papers Deadline
September 18	Int'l Symposium on Artificial Intelligence – Early Registration Deadline
September 21	GSA Annual Meeting – Early Registration
October 19	3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop – Early Registration 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.

Third-Fourth Quarter continued		
	August 5-7, 2020 Virtual Meeting	11th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/crater2020/
UPDATE Date/VM	August 31- September 3, 2020 Virtual Meeting	Human to Mars Summit https://www.exploremars.org/
	September 21- October 9, 2020 Virtual Meeting	Europlanet Science Congress https://www.epsc2020.eu/
UPDATE: Date/Website	October 4-6, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	Martian Enigmas 2020 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigma2021/

UPDATE	October 18-21, 2020 Virtual Meeting	International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Automation in Space (i-SAIRAS 2020) https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/isairas2020/
UPDATE	October 26-30, 2020 Virtual Meeting	GSA Annual Meeting https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home
NEW	October 26-30, 2020 Virtual Meeting	52nd Meeting of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences https://dps.aas.org/meetings/future
	November 5-6, 2020 Noordwijk, The Netherlands	Planet Moon-Magnetosphere Interaction Workshop https://indico.esa.int/event/337/
NEW	November 16-18, 2020 Virtual Meeting	VEXAG Annual Meeting https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/vexag-18/
UPDATE	November 17-19, 2020 Virtual Meeting	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
UPDATE: 2021	Woods Hole, MA	Ocean Worlds 5 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/oceanworlds2020/
	Boulder, CO, USA	Titan Through Time Workshop V https://www.titanthroughtime.org/
	Next Spring Saint-Hubert, Canada	Women in Space 2020 http://www.womeninspacecon.com/

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

Federal Holiday	2020	2021
New Year's Day	Wed. Jan. 1	Fri. Jan. 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Mon. Jan. 20	Mon. Jan. 18
President's Day	Mon. Feb. 17	Mon. Feb. 15
Memorial Day	Mon. May 25	Mon. May 31
Independence Day (Observed)	Fri. July 3*	Mon. July 5*
Labor Day	Mon. Sept. 7	Mon. Sept. 6
Columbus Day	Mon. Oct. 12	Mon. Oct. 11
Veterans' Day	Wed. Nov. 11	Thu. Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thu. Nov. 26	Thu. Nov. 25
Christmas Day	Fri. Dec. 25	Sat. Dec. 25

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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.

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