

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

September 2020

## Mars Science News

### Upcoming MEPAG Virtual Meeting

MEPAG Virtual Meeting #10 (VM10) will take place on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am PDT/1pm EDT. The main agenda topic will be a report of the NASEM Assessment of the Report of NASA's Planetary Protection Independent Review Board (PPIRB). More information will follow in the 1<sup>st</sup> Information Circular.

### Recent News

#### Mars Mission Launches

- Three missions successfully launched and are on the way to encounter with Mars in 2021: UAE Hope (Emirates Mars Mission), China Tianwen-1, USA Perseverance (Mars 2020)

#### MEPAG Presentation to Planetary Sciences Advisory Committee

- MEPAG presented at the August 17-18 Planetary Sciences Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting. Presentation slides are online at [PAC8-18-2020](#)

#### Exoplanet/Solar System Synergies

- The Exoplanet Exploration Program Analysis Group (ExoPAG) has formed a Science Interest Group (SIG) focused on Exoplanet/Solar System Synergies to coordinate joint activities and an ongoing discussion on how Exoplanet and Solar System science and missions can benefit from each other. This SIG ([SIG3](#)) will endeavor to identify multiple initiatives that could be mutually beneficial for both communities and will encourage cross-disciplinary interaction between ExoPAGs and the Planetary Advisory Groups.

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

Due	Conference
September 1	<b>VEXAG Annual Meeting</b> – Abstract Deadline
September 3	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop</b> – Abstract Deadline
September 15	<b>Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology</b> – All Other White Papers Deadline
September 18	<b>Int'l Symposium on Artificial Intelligence</b> – Early Registration Deadline
September 21	<b>GSA Annual Meeting</b> – Early Registration
October 19	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop</b> – Early Registration Deadline
November 2	<b>VEXAG</b> – Registration Deadline
November 3	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop</b> – 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		
	September 21- October 9, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>Europlanet Science Congress</b> <a href="https://www.epsc2020.eu/">https://www.epsc2020.eu/</a>
<b>UPDATE</b>	October 19-23, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Automation in Space (i-SAIRAS 2020)</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/isairas2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/isairas2020/</a>
	October 26-30, 2020	<b>GSA Annual Meeting</b>

	Virtual Meeting	<a href="https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home">https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home</a>
	October 26-30, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>52nd Meeting of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences</b> <a href="https://dps.aas.org/meetings/future">https://dps.aas.org/meetings/future</a>
<b>Most likely to change to VM</b>	November 5-6, 2020 Noordwijk, The Netherlands	<b>Planet Moon-Magnetosphere Interaction Workshop</b> <a href="https://indico.esa.int/event/337/">https://indico.esa.int/event/337/</a>
	November 16-17, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>VEXAG Annual Meeting</b> <a href="https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/vexag-18/">https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/vexag-18/</a>
	November 17-19, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<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>UPDATE</b>	December 7-11, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting">https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting</a>

<b>Postponements (listed in alphabetical order, with new dates given as known)</b>		
<b>UPDATE</b>	2021 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>May 2021</b> Alamosa, CO, USA	<b>7th International Planetary Dunes Workshop (2020 was the 6th)</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/</a>
	<b>January 28-February 4, 2021</b> Sydney, Australia	<b>43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly (COSPAR 2021, had been COSPAR 2020)</b> <a href="https://www.cospar-assembly.org/">https://www.cospar-assembly.org/</a>
	<b>April 12-16, 2021 [TBC]</b> Canary Islands, Spain	<b>Biennial European Astrobiology Conference (BEACON)</b> <a href="http://europeanastrobiology.eu/BEACON2020/index.html">http://europeanastrobiology.eu/BEACON2020/index.html</a>
	Denver, CO, USA	<b>Lunar Surface Science Workshop</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarsurface2020">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarsurface2020</a>
<b>UPDATE</b>	October 4-6, <b>2021</b> Houston, TX, USA	<b>Martian Enigmas 2020</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigma2021/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigma2021/</a>
	<b>June 8-11, 2021</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>
	<b>April 9-11, 2021</b> Tokyo, Japan	<b>NASA Astrobiology Graduate Conference (AbGradCon)</b> <a href="http://abgradcon.org">http://abgradcon.org</a>
	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>
	Boulder, CO, USA	<b>Titan Through Time Workshop V</b> <a href="https://www.titanthroughtime.org/">https://www.titanthroughtime.org/</a>
	Next Spring Saint-Hubert, Canada	<b>Women in Space 2020</b> <a href="http://www.womeninspacecon.com/">http://www.womeninspacecon.com/</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

U.S. Federal 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

Editors

Rich Zurek  
 David Beaty  
 Brandi Carrier  
 Barbara Saltzberg

[Richard.W.Zurek@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Richard.W.Zurek@jpl.nasa.gov)  
[David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov)  
[Brandi.L.Carrier@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Brandi.L.Carrier@jpl.nasa.gov)  
[Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov)

818-354-3725  
 818-354-7968  
 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](mailto: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](mailto: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), please fill out the online form at: <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/emailnewsletters.cfm> (also linked at the bottom of the MEPAG website <http://mepag.nasa.gov/>), send an email to [mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov) from the email account you'd like added, with your full name and institution.