

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

October 2020

Mars Science News

Upcoming MEPAG Virtual Meeting

MEPAG Virtual Meeting #10 (VM10) will take place on Tuesday, October 20th at 10am PDT/1pm EDT. Agenda items are expected to include updates about recent MEPAG, Mars Exploration Program, and Decadal Survey activities, with an extended discussion on Planetary Protection (PP) developments. Scott Hubbard will provide an overview of recent NASEM Reviews (e.g., [Assessment of the Report of NASA's Planetary Protection Independent Review Board](#)) and Lisa Pratt will discuss the formation of the NASEM Committee on Planetary Protection ([CoPP](#)) and other responses to various external reviews. The VM10 agenda and 2nd Information Circular will be shared within the next two weeks on the MEPAG meeting website (<http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm>).

MEPAG Steering Committee Opening for an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility (EDIA) Representative

The Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) is committed to working towards building a more diverse, inclusive, and welcoming community. To this end, MEPAG is soliciting an **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) representative** to serve on the MEPAG Steering Committee. This is a full Steering Committee position.

Roles and responsibilities include providing expertise and input to the Committee on its activities; working with the rest of the MEPAG Steering Committee to determine measurable actions the Mars community will take to increase its equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility; tracking progress on EDIA initiatives; and serving as one of two MEPAG representatives on the EDIA Working Group Steering Committee. This member would fully support the purposes and initiatives of MEPAG on the MEPAG website.

Like all MEPAG positions, this is a volunteer role. It is expected the time commitment will be ~5 hours per month and the term is expected to last at least 3 years.

Interested applicants should send a 1-page CV and a short statement describing commitment to, and experience with, both Mars exploration and EDIA issues, and how you would work towards inclusion and equity within the Mars community to mepag_edia@jpl.nasa.gov by **October 14, 2020**.

Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023-2032 Virtual Open Sessions

The National Academies' [Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey](#) will assess key scientific questions in planetary science and astrobiology, identify priority medium- and large-class missions and other initiatives, and present a comprehensive research strategy for the 2023-2032 timeframe. Join the steering committee for the first [open session](#) of the decadal survey on **Friday, October 2, 2020 from 10am-3pm EDT (7am-12pm PDT)**. You can register to attend this meeting virtually at the link above. The agenda and meeting connection information can be found in the pdf file on the [event page](#).

The next open session of the decadal survey steering committee will take place on **Friday, October 16, 2020 from 10am-3pm EDT (7am-12pm PDT)**. The agenda and meeting connection information can be found in the pdf file on the [event page](#).

Call for Papers for a Special Issue of Advances in Astronomy

A special issue of Advances in Astronomy titled "Mars Climate Evolution, Habitability, Astrobiology, and Resources" is now open for paper submissions, with a submission deadline of January 29th, 2021. More information can be found at: <https://www.hindawi.com/journals/aa/si/187512/>

LPI New Initiative: Brines across the Solar System Conference Series

The LPI's new Brines Across the Solar System (BAS) initiative dives into brines as a planetary process, from modern to ancient brines and the technologies needed to explore them. The three-part conference series will address questions relating to the physiochemistry of brines, their habitability, potential to preserve biosignatures, as well as their occurrence today and throughout time in our Solar System and beyond. More information can be found at:

<https://www.lpi.usra.edu/science/initiatives/brines/>

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Conference
October 5	43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly – Abstract Deadline
October 19	3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop – Early Registration Deadline
October 30	National Society of Black Physicists – Abstract Deadline
October 30	2020 AGU Fall Meeting – Registration Deadline
October 31	43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly – Early Registration Deadline
November 1	National Society of Black Physicists – Registration Deadline
November 2	VEXAG – Registration Deadline
November 3	3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop – Registration Deadline
December 31	43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly – 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.

Fourth Quarter		
NEW	October 2, 2020 Virtual Meeting	Planetary Science & Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023-2032: Steering Group Meeting 2 https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/planetary-science-and-astrobiology-decadal-survey-2023-2032
NEW	October 16, 2020 Virtual Meeting	Planetary Science & Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023-2032: Steering Group 3 https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/planetary-science-and-astrobiology-decadal-survey-2023-2032
	October 19-23, 2020 Virtual Meeting	International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Automation in Space (i-SAIRAS 2020) https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/isairas2020/
	October 26-30, 2020 Virtual Meeting	GSA Annual Meeting https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home
	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 5-8, 2020 Virtual Meeting	National Society of Black Physicists https://www.nsbp.org/2020-conference/2020-conference-home
	November 16-17, 2020 Virtual Meeting	VEXAG Annual Meeting https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/vexag-18/
	November 17-19, 2020 Virtual Meeting	3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/interstellarprobe2020/
	December 7-11, 2020 Virtual Meeting	AGU Fall Meeting https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting

2021 First-Second Quarter		
NEW	January 11 -15, 2021 Virtual Meeting	237th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society https://aas.org/meetings/aas237
NEW	January 28-February 4, 2021 Sydney, Australia	43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly NCTS #35724-20 http://www.cospar2020.org/
NEW	March 6-13, 2021 Virtual Meeting	IEEE Aerospace Conference https://www.aeroconf.org/
NEW	April 25-30, 2021 Vienna, Austria	EGU General Assembly 2021 https://www.egu2021.eu/
NEW	May 9-14, 2021 Atlanta, GA, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference (AbSciCon) https://www.agu.org/abscicon
NEW	May 10-12, 2021 Long Beach, CA	Space Tech Expo https://www.spacetecheexpo.com
NEW	May 17-20, 2021 Glasgow, Scotland	IEEE Int'l Instrumentation & Measurement Technology Conf. (I2MTC 2021) https://i2mtc2020.ieee-ims.org/
NEW	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
NEW	June 28-July 2, 2021 Flagstaff, AZ	5th Planetary Data Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/planetdata2021/

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

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

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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.

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), send an email to mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov from the email account you'd like added, with your full name and institution.