

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

November 2021

## Mars Science News

### Indications of Interest to serve on MEPAG Committees

The Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) invites *Indications of Interest* to serve on one of its standing committees: 1) the Steering Committee (SC), which serves as an executive board to provide insightful and constructive community input to NASA goals, policy discussions, and directives, and 2) the Goals Committee (GC), which is the caretaker of the MEPAG Goals Document. Currently, there is a vacancy on the SC, but as GC members are sometimes candidates for the Steering Committee position, indications of interest in serving on either committee are welcomed. Please send your Indication of Interest by November 8, 2021, via the google form [linked here](https://forms.gle/moaYKed8zeK3VQgr9) (<https://forms.gle/moaYKed8zeK3VQgr9>). Those interested can self-nominate or encourage others to submit the form. Terms for either committee membership are nominally 2-3 years and can be renewed.

For more information about MEPAG and the membership of its current committees, please read the material on the next page and see <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/about.cfm>. Please send any questions to [mepagmeetings@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepagmeetings@jpl.nasa.gov).

### LowCostMars2022 Update

The Organizing Committee for the [Low-Cost Science Mission Concepts for Mars Exploration](#) workshop, scheduled for January 11-13, 2022, is pleased to announce that the workshop venue has now been finalized; the meeting will be held in the Westin Hotel in Pasadena, CA (191 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101.) The hotel has reserved a block of rooms at reduced rates for workshop attendees; please use the following link when reserving your lodging: [Book your group rate for JPL Meeting January 2022](#) It is listed under 'JPL Meeting Jan2022'.

The Westin is located in the heart of Pasadena, at the base of the beautiful San Gabriel Mountains, next to our iconic City Hall and within walking distance of Old Town Pasadena, with a wide variety of restaurants available. Pasadena is close to Los Angeles, with convenient airport service at Los Angeles International and Burbank airports. We've put in a request for our best sunny, mild SoCal winter weather, and so we hope to see you at #LowCostMars2022.

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

| Due        | Conference  |
|------------|---|
| November 3 | <b>AGU 2021 Fall Meeting</b> – Registration Deadline  |
| January 11 | <b>LPSC 2022 53<sup>rd</sup> Lunar &amp; Planetary Science Conference</b> – Abstract Deadline |
| January 22 | <b>Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG) Meeting</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.
- **The situation for COVID-19 continues to evolve, so here are conferences with both in-person and virtual formats. It is advisable to check with the websites of the conference and confirm with the organization of any changes.**

| 2021 |   |  |
|------|---|--|
|      | November 2-4, 2021<br>VIRTUAL                         | <b>MARS - A New Geological Frontier</b><br><a href="https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/11-gsl-mars">https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/11-gsl-mars</a>   |
|      | November 8-9, 2021<br>Hybrid / Tucson, Arizona, USA   | <b>Astromaterials Data Management in the Era of Sample-Return Missions Community Workshop</b><br><a href="https://corex.lpl.arizona.edu/astromaterials-workshop">https://corex.lpl.arizona.edu/astromaterials-workshop</a> |
|      | December 13-17, 2021<br>Hybrid / New Orleans, LA, USA | <b>AGU 2021 Fall Meeting</b><br><a href="https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting">https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting</a>  |

| 2022           |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
|                | January 10-12, 2022<br>Oxford, UK               | <b>Rocky Worlds II</b><br><a href="https://www.rockyworlds.org">https://www.rockyworlds.org</a>   |
| <b>UPDATED</b> | January 11-13, 2022<br>Pasadena, CA, USA/Hybrid | <b>Low-Cost Science Mission Concept for Mars Exploration</b><br><a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lowcostmars2022/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lowcostmars2022/</a> |
|                | January 22-23, 2022<br>Galveston, TX, USA       | <b>Origins of Life Convergence - Challenging Paradigms in Prebiotic Chemistry</b><br><a href="https://www.grc.org/find-a-conference/">https://www.grc.org/find-a-conference/</a>    |
|                | January 22-23, 2022<br>Galveston, TX, USA       | <b>Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG) Meeting</b><br><a href="https://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/">https://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/</a>                                |
| <b>NEW</b>     | March 7-11, 2022<br>The Woodlands, TX, USA      | <b>LPSC 2022 53<sup>rd</sup> Lunar &amp; Planetary Science Conference</b><br><a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2022/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2022/</a>  |

**Seasons on Mars**

|   | MY36       | MY37       | MY38     |
|---|------------|------------|----------|
| <b>Start of Northern Spring / L<sub>s</sub> 0</b>   | 02/07/2021 | 12/26/2022 | 11/12/24 |
| <b>Start of Northern Summer / L<sub>s</sub> 90</b>  | 08/25/2021 | 07/13/2023 | 05/29/25 |
| <b>Start of Northern Autumn / L<sub>s</sub> 180</b> | 02/24/2022 | 01/12/2024 | 11/29/25 |
| <b>Start of Northern Winter / L<sub>s</sub> 270</b> | 07/21/2022 | 06/07/2024 | 04/25/26 |

U.S. Federal holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings



Editors

|                   |  |              |
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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](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), 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.