

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

December 2019

## Mars Science News

### LPI and MEPAG google spreadsheets to facilitate Decadal Survey white paper generation

LPI has created a [centralized site](#) for advertisement of white paper ideas within all areas of planetary science, as inputs to the next Planetary Science Decadal Survey. 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.

As announced last month, MEPAG has also created a [google spreadsheet](#) to facilitate collaboration and communication regarding community-generated white papers. Despite being superceded by the LPI site, this MEPAG-hosted site will be kept open as an additional resource for collaboration and evolving ideas.

All members of the Mars community are encouraged to view or add information to either the LPI or MEPAG spreadsheets (or both). On the LPI site, contact information is shared for potential collaborators. On the MEPAG site, inputs aim to help people find additional authors for a white paper topic, volunteer to assist with a white paper topic, or share a relevant resource with the community. Additionally, the first tab includes links to other collaboration sites for the planetary community.

Note that no white paper request or deadlines have yet been confirmed by the National Academies (NASEM) as the statement of task for the next Planetary Decadal Survey is still in work, but based on recent public comments (e.g., at the [September CAPS meeting](#)), it is expected that the solicitation for white papers will follow the same format as for the last Planetary Decadal Survey, and that they can be officially submitted ~February-May, 2020. Confirmed guidance from NASEM, once available, will be shared via the newsletter mailing list and added to the MEPAG DS resource pages, including this spreadsheet.

### Save-the-date for the next MEPAG face-to-face Meeting (#38): April 15-17, 2020

The next MEPAG face-to-face meeting is being planned for mid-April, 2020 (tentatively April 15-17). This meeting is planned to be held near Washington DC, but the exact location is not yet set. The agenda is also still in-work, but will include discussions about MEPAG and Mars community Decadal Survey preparation, as well as the typical updates about MEPAG, NASA, and other space agency Mars activities. Further information on this meeting will be posted to the [MEPAG meeting website](#).

### Presentations and summary available from MEPAG virtual meeting VM7 (November 13)

Presentations and a Summary of the last MEPAG virtual meeting (VM7, held on November 13, 2019) are now available at the [virtual meeting \(VM7\) website](#). Agenda topics included MEPAG preparation for the Decadal Survey, as well as reports about China's Mars exploration plans, the recent Mars Extant Life conference, the recent NASA Planetary Protection Independent Review Board (PPIRB), and the MEP-chartered Mars Architecture Strategy Working Group (MASWG).

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

Due	Conference
December 5	<a href="#">3rd International Planetary Caves Conference</a> – Abstract and MPO Student Travel Grant Application Deadline
December 9	<a href="#">Ground and Space Observatories</a> - Abstract Deadline
December 10	<a href="#">Ice Giant Systems 2020</a> – Abstract Deadline
December 13	<a href="#">Seventh International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration</a> – Early Registration Deadline
December 20	<a href="#">Women in Space</a> – Abstract Deadline
December 30	<a href="#">Seventh International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration</a> – Abstract Deadline
December 30	<a href="#">Seventh International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration</a> – Registration Deadline
December 31	<a href="#">36th International Geological Congress (IGC)</a> – Abstract Deadline
December 31	<a href="#">IEEE</a> – Registration Deadline

Due (2020)	Conference
January 7	<b>51<sup>st</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> – Abstract Deadline
January 10	<b>Access to Space Workshop</b> – Abstract & Registration Deadlines
January 13	<b>Exoplanets in Our Backyard</b> – Early Registration Deadline
January 15	<b>EGU General Assembly</b> – Abstract Deadline
January 21	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> International Planetary Caves Conference</b> – Early Registration Deadline
January 24	<b>OPAG Meeting</b> – Early Registration Deadline
January 26	<b>OPAG Meeting</b> – Registration Deadline
February 4	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> International Planetary Caves Conference</b> – Registration Deadline
February 12	<b>OPAG Meeting</b> - Abstract Deadline
February 14	<b>43<sup>rd</sup> COSPAR Scientific Assembly</b> – Abstract Deadline
February 27	<b>6<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Dunes Workshop</b> – Abstract Deadline

### Upcoming Conferences

- Only foreign and NASA-sponsored conferences will have an NCTS#; missing NCTS#s can be sent to Barbara Saltzberg ([Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov)).
- Forecasting to NCTS is usually 60 days in advance for domestic meetings. If you are unsure whether an event is a conference or not, or when the forecasting deadline may be, please consult with your NASA Center conference forecasting/travel unit.

Fourth Quarter, 2019		
	December 9-12, 2019 Sugar Land, TX, USA	<b>First International Orbital Debris Conference (IOC)</b> NCTS 38110-20 <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/orbitaldebris2019/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/orbitaldebris2019/</a>
	December 9-13, 2019 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>2019 AGU Fall Meeting</b> , NCTS 37409-20 <a href="https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting">https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting</a>

2020 First Quarter		
	January 6-8, 2020 Cambridge, England	<b>KICC: Rocky Worlds: from the Solar System to Exoplanets</b> <a href="https://www.kicc.cam.ac.uk/events/rocky-worlds-from-the-solar-system-to-exoplanets">https://www.kicc.cam.ac.uk/events/rocky-worlds-from-the-solar-system-to-exoplanets</a>
	January 13-17, 2020 Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	<b>7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration</b> NCTS 39128-20 <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2020/</a>
	January 14-16, 2020 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>NASA Small Bodies Advisory Group (SBAG) meeting</b> <a href="https://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/">https://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/</a>
	January 20-22, 2020 London, England	<b>Ice Giants Systems 2020</b> NCTS 38573-20 <a href="https://ice-giants.github.io/">https://ice-giants.github.io/</a>
<b>UPDATE</b>	February 3-4, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	<b>Outer Planet Assessment Group (OPAG) Meeting</b> <i>New for this year: One-page abstracts will be collected until February 12, 2020. Abstracts and presentations will be posted and made available via ADS at the conclusion of the meeting.</i> <a href="https://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/meetings/feb2020/">https://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/meetings/feb2020/</a>
	February 5-7, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	<b>Exoplanets in Our Backyard</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/exoplanets2020/">www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/exoplanets2020/</a>
	February 11-13, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	<b>LPI Workshop: The impact of lunar dust on human exploration</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunardust2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunardust2020/</a>
	February 18-21, 2020 San Antonio, TX, USA	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> International Planetary Caves Conference</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/3rdcaves2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/3rdcaves2020/</a>
	February 25-27, 2020 Laurel, MD, USA	<b>Access to Space Workshop</b> <a href="https://civspace.jhuapl.edu/News-and-Events/events/Access2Space/">https://civspace.jhuapl.edu/News-and-Events/events/Access2Space/</a>
	March 2-6, 2020 Santiago, Chile	<b>Ground and space observatories: a joint venture to planetary science workshop</b> NCTS 39529-20 <a href="https://conference.almaobservatory.org/planets2020/">https://conference.almaobservatory.org/planets2020/</a>
	March 2-8, 2020 Dehli, India	<b>36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (IGC)</b> <a href="https://www.36igc.org/home">https://www.36igc.org/home</a>

	March 7-14, 2020 Big Sky, MT, USA	<b>IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> <a href="https://www.aeroconf.org/">https://www.aeroconf.org/</a>
	March 16-20, 2020 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>51<sup>st</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2020/</a>
	Phoenix, AZ, USA March 31-April 2, 2020	<b>Preventing Harassment in Science: Building a community of Practice Toward Meaningful Change</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/anti-harassment2020/organizers/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/anti-harassment2020/organizers/</a>

Second Quarter, 2020		
<b>NEW</b>	April 14-16, 2020 Boulder, CO, USA	<b>Titan Through Time Workshop V</b>
<b>NEW</b>	April 15-17, 2020 [TBC] Washington, DC	<b>MEPAG Meeting #38</b> <a href="https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm">https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm</a>
	April 20-23, 2020 Seattle, WA, USA	<b>ASCE Earth &amp; Space Conference Symposium 2: Exploration and Utilization of Extra-Terrestrial Bodies</b> <a href="https://www.earthspaceconference.org/symposium-2">https://www.earthspaceconference.org/symposium-2</a>
<b>NEW</b>	April 20-24, 2020 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>
	May 3-8, 2020 Les Houches, France	<b>Workshop Mars V</b> <a href="https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/planet-mars-5/home">https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/planet-mars-5/home</a>
	May 3-8, 2020 Vienna, Austrian	<b>EGU General Assembly</b> <a href="https://www.egu2020.eu/">https://www.egu2020.eu/</a>
<b>NEW</b>	May 6-8, 2020 Saint-Hubert, Quebec	<b>Women in Space 2020</b> <a href="http://www.womeninspacecon.com/">http://www.womeninspacecon.com/</a>
	May 12-15, 2020 Alamosa, CO, USA	<b>6<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Dunes Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/</a>
	June 2-4, 2020 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>
	June 8-11, 2020 Paris, France	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Mars Atmosphere Modelling and Observations</b> <a href="http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2020/">http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2020/</a>
<b>NEW</b>	June 22-24, 2020 Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain	<b>Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics 2020 Conference</b> <a href="https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/psida-2020">https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/psida-2020</a>

Third-Fourth Quarter, 2020		
	July, 2020	<b>Launch window for the UAE EMM orbiter (Hope)</b>
	July 26-August 11, 2020	<b>Launch window for the ESA-Russia ExoMars rover (Rosalind Franklin)</b>
	July 17-August 5, 2020	<b>Launch window for the NASA Mars 2020 rover</b>
	August 15-22, 2020 Sydney, Australia	<b>43<sup>rd</sup> COSPAR Scientific Assembly NCTS 35724-20</b> <a href="https://www.cospar-assembly.org/">https://www.cospar-assembly.org/</a>
	October 5-8, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	<b>Martian Enigmas 2020</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigmas2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigmas2020/</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

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:

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>

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