

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

January 2018

Mars Science News

MEPAG meeting forecasting reminder and tentative meeting structure

Plans are coming together for the next MEPAG face-to-face meeting (April 3-5, 2018, in Crystal City, Washington DC), and we expect to send out the First Circular in a few weeks (it will also be posted to the meeting website: <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m36>). Until then, here is a reminder about the upcoming and important **January 15 deadline for forecasting**, along with a preliminary overview of expected topics to assist with forecasting.

A focus of this MEPAG meeting is preparation for the next Decadal Survey. MEPAG seeks to enable opportunities for identifying concepts in all mission classes that could make significant progress on compelling Mars science questions during 2023-2032. While the return of samples to be prepared by NASA's Mars 2020 rover continues to be a priority, there is a strong pool of concepts for (1) competed missions (including possible New Frontiers candidates), (2) small satellite missions enabled by strategic mission launch capabilities, and/or (3) follow-on flagship capabilities. These build on the extraordinary discoveries of past and ongoing missions, as well as new technological developments. MEPAG's goal is to generally support scientific mission concepts with enough detail to enable their serious consideration by the next Planetary Decadal Survey. The first event related to this aim will be a forum during the next face-to-face MEPAG meeting, with the main goal of identifying mission objectives and concepts that address high-priority Mars science questions, with an emphasis on the science that can be achieved over the next two decades. Concepts submitted by community members would be presented (poster or short oral presentation) and discussed at the meeting.

Tentative meeting structure:

Day 1:

NASA PSD/MEP Reports
Potential MEPAG Goals Revision: Polar Science
Forum: Mission Concepts for the 2020's and beyond

Day 2:

Decadal Survey Preparations
Summary of Mars Mission Concepts Forum
Reports from Mars Missions in Development

Day 3:

Updates from Ongoing Mars Missions
Human Exploration & Commercial Space
Conference Reports
Future MEPAG Plans

By January 15 (Note: US holiday):

- NASA/US Government employees and contractors who may attend the meeting in-person should forecast for the 2018 Spring MEPAG meeting (NCTS# 32452-18). If you typically forecast your attendance at conferences such as LPSC, please forecast before January 15. (The meeting, as much as is reasonable, will be webcast as at past MEPAG meetings.)
- To help us help us gauge interest and scope, and to aid in planning the forum portion of the MEPAG meeting, please submit an expression of interest (deadline has been extended) at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7njskPYmtSxggbowLlwrZYvwIjmfA29W6cT87lBBOhMpglQ/viewform>. This webform requests your name, institution, email, and a tentative presentation title. (There is also room for additional comments about what you'd like to speak about and/or about the workshop itself.) Based in part on community response, further information about the forum and instructions for actual concept submissions will be included in the First Circular.

42nd COSPAR Sessions, July 14-22, Pasadena, CA

Community members are encouraged to submit abstracts to the following Mars-related sessions for the 42nd COSPAR Scientific Assembly to be held July 14-22 in Pasadena, California (NCTS #28500-18; **abstract deadline is February 9th**). A complete description of the event and abstract submission instructions are available on the Assembly web page (<https://www.cospar-assembly.org/>). The main conference webpage is <http://cospar2018.org/>.

Main Scientific Organizers (MSOs) are indicated below for each session.

B4.1: Mars Science Results (MSO: Leslie Tamppari)

B4.2: Forward Planning for the Robotic Exploration of Mars (MSO: David Beatty)

C4.3: Mars and Venus Atmosphere and Ionosphere Reference Datasets (MSO: Ludmila Zasova)

F3.1: Astrobiology - Experiments from Mars Analogue Sites, Earth Orbit, and Beyond (MSO: Petra Rettberg)

F3.3: The Past, Present and Future Habitability of Mars (MSO: Rafael Navarro-Gonzalez)

F3.7: Biosignature Detection in the Solar System. Part II: Mars, Earth, and ExoPlanets (MSO: Lindsay Hays)

PEX.2: Human and Robotic Exploration of the Moon, Mars & NEOs (MSO: Bernard H. Foing)

2nd International Mars Sample Return Conference, April 25-27, 2018

The 2nd International Mars Sample Return Conference is scheduled to take place over 2.5 days from **April 25-27, 2018** in Berlin, Germany. The purpose of this conference is to establish a better understanding of the options for a possible International Mars Sample Return campaign in the next decade, given the 2018 context, to highlight recent accomplishments in Mars exploration that feed forward to Mars Sample Return, and to share international agency and private industry preparatory plans for future Mars missions relating to Mars Sample Return.

The abstract submission deadline is January 25, 2018 5pm CDT. More information is available [here](#).

Travel support may be available for U.S. citizens or legal residents who are selected based on their submitted abstracts.

Additionally, the NASA Mars Program Office has announced that travel funding awards are available for up to 4 U.S. undergraduate and graduate students. An application (including a submitted abstract) must be submitted by January 25th, 2018 to be considered for this funding. NASA Headquarters will make the selections. For more information and the application, see <http://mepag.nasa.gov/student.cfm?expand=student>.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
January 15	Life on Earth and Beyond: Emergence, Survivability, and Impact on the Environment , Abstract Deadline
January 16	2018 Southeastern Sectional Meeting of the Geolocial Society of America , Abstract Deadline
January 19	Asia Oceania Geosciences Society , Abstract Deadline
January 20	Diversis Mundi (OPS-III): The Solar System in an Exoplanetary Context , Registration Deadline
January 20	2018 European Lunar Symposium , Abstract Deadline
January 25	2nd International Mars Sample Return Conference , Abstract Deadline, Student Travel Grant Application
February 1	New Views of the Moon 2—Asia , Abstract Deadline
February 9	COSPAR 2018 , Abstract Deadline
February 9	Planetary Geologic Mappers Annual Meeting , Application Deadline
February 15	Mercury: Current and Future Science of the Innermost Planet , Abstract Deadline
February 15	2nd International Mars Sample Return Conference , Early bird Registration Deadline
February 27	Differentiation: Building the Internal Architecture of Planets , Abstract Deadline
February 28	9th Workshop on Carastrophic Disruption in the Solar System (CD9) , Abstract Deadline, Early Registration Deadline
March 7	Ocean Worlds 3: Water-silicate Interactions , Abstract Deadline
March 10	15th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-15) , Abstract Deadline
March 29	Planetary & Terrestrial Mapping Sciences Symposium , Abstract Deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops 2018

A note about “conferences” and this calendar of events

- Missing NCTS#s (and forecasting deadline, if anomalous) can be sent to Barbara Saltzberg (Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov).
- If no deadline is noted: it is usually 90 days in advance — sometimes further in advance if the conference is “Heavily Attended.”
- Please do not assume our noting of NCTS# is complete. 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.

First Quarter 2018

	January 14-19, 2018 Galveston, TX USA	The Prebiotic Milieu Building the Evolution of Early Life https://www.grc.org/origins-of-life-conference/2018/
	January 17-18, 2018 Moffett Field, CA, USA	18th Small Bodies Assessment Group Meeting https://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/
	February 12-16, 2018 Zurich, Switzerland	Water During Planet Formation and Evolution https://waterzurich.github.io/
	February 17-18, 2018 Toronto, Canada	Women in Planetary Science and Exploration NCTS# 31744-18 http://wpse2018.ca/
	February 27-28, 2018 Madrid, Spain	From Mars Express to Exomars http://upwards.iaa.es/content/mars-express-exomars
	February 27-28, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	2nd COSPAR Workshop on Refining the Planetary Protection Requirements https://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/COSPARHumans2018
	March 3-10, 2018 Big Sky, Montana, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference NCTS#30394-18 http://www.aeroconf.org/
	March 5-9, 2018 Santiago, Chile	Diversis Mundi (OPS-III): The Solar System in an Exoplanetary Context http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2018/ops2018.html
New!	March 17-18, 2018 The Woodlands, TX, USA	Microsymposium 59: The Chinese Lunar and Deep Space Exploration Program 59th Microsymposium
	March 18, 2018 The Woodlands, TX, USA	Planetary Science Deep Space SmallSat Studies , NCTS# 32277-18 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/smallsat2018/
	March 19-23, 2018 The Woodlands, TX, USA	49th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference NCTS# 30582-18 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2018/
New!	March 19-24, 2018 Bertinoro, Italy	Life on Earth & Beyond: Emergence, Survivability, and Impact on the Environment http://www.arcetri.astro.it/~bertinoro/
	March 27-29, 2018 Washington, DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Sciences (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events

Second Quarter, 2018

	April 3-5, 2018 Washington, DC, USA	MEPAG Face-to-Face Meeting , NCTS # 32452-18 https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov
	April 8-13, 2018 Vienna, Austria	European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2018 https://egu2018.eu/home.html
	April 9-12, 2018 Cleveland, OH, USA	ASCE International Conference on Engineering, Science, Construction and Operations in Challenging Environments http://earthspaceconf.mst.edu/
	April 12-13, 2018 Knoxville, TN, USA	2018 Southeastern Sectional Meeting of the Geological Society of America https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section_Meetings/GSA/Sections/se/2018mtg/techprog.aspx
Updated!	April 13-15 2018 Reno, NV, USA	SoCIA 2018: Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology http://spaceref.com/calendar/calendar.html?pid=9490
New!	April 18-20, 2018 Fukushima, Japan	New views of the Moon 2 - Asia https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/newviews2018/
	April 24-26, 2018 St. Louis, MO, USA	Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics https://psida.rsl.wustl.edu/
	April 25-27, 2018 Berlin, Germany	2nd International Mars Sample Return Conference https://atpi.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/2nd-international-conference-on-mars-sample-return/home
	May 1-3, 2018 Columbia, MD, USA	Mercury Conference https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/mercury2018/
	May 5, 2018 Vandenberg AFB, CA, USA	Insight launch window opens
Updated!	May 7-11, 2018 Pasadena, CA, USA	Differentiation: Building the Internal Architecture of Planets , NCTS# 28518-18 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/differentiation2018/
Updated!	May 13-16, 2018 Toulouse, France	2018 European Lunar Symposium https://els2018.arc.nasa.gov/
	May 14-17, 2018 Kobe, Japan	9th Workshop on Catastrophic Disruption in the Solar System (CD9) http://www.impact-res.org/CD2018/Catastrophic_Disruption_2018/Welcome.html
	May 21-24, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	Ocean Worlds 3: Water-silicate Interactions https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/oceanworlds2018/
	May 29-30, 2018 Paris, France	iCubeSat 2018 - The 7th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop https://icubesat.org/
	June 3-8, 2018 Honolulu, HI, USA	Asia Oceania Geosciences Society http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2018/public.asp?page=home.htm <i>Session Title: New views of ancient Mars</i>
	June 11-15, 2018 Boulder, CO, USA	15th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-15) https://www.colorado.edu/event/ippw2018/
	June 12-15, 2018 Golden, CO, USA	Space Resources Rountable http://www.isruinfo.com/
	June 12-15, 2018 Golden, CO, USA	Planetary & Terrestrial Mapping Sciences Symposium https://www.deltion.ca/ptmss
	June 12-14, 2018 Knoxville, TN, USA	Planetary Geologic Mappers Annual Meeting https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/pgm2018/

Second Quarter, 2018

	June 12-15, 2018 Pasadena, CA, USA	Geobiology 2018 http://web.gps.caltech.edu/GBcourse/
	June 18-22, 2018 Lakewood, CO, USA	Mars Workshop on Amazonian and Present Day Climate https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/amazonian2018/
	June 19-22, 2018 Kharkiv, Ukraine	Atmosphereless Solar System Bodies in the Space Exploration Era http://www.astron.kharkov.ua/conference/ssb/18/index.php
	June 23–July 1, 2018 Chamonix, France	EUCOP 2018: 5th European Conference on Permafrost https://eucope2018.sciencesconf.org/
	June 23–July 1, 2018 Petnica, Serbia	Workshop in Geology and Geophysics in the Solar System http://petnica.rs/planetary2017/
Updated!	June 25-29, 2018 Rotorua, New Zealand	Astrobiology Australasia Meeting Astrobiology Australasia Meeting
Updated!	June 26-28, 2018 Moffett Field, CA, USA	NASA Exploration Science Forum 2018 https://nesf2018.arc.nasa.gov/

Third Quarter, 2018

	July 1-9, 2018 Denham, Australia	Astrobiology Grand Tour Astrobiology Grand Tour
	July 14-22, 2018 Pasadena, CA, USA	42nd COSPAR Scientific Assembly NCTS# 28500-18 http://cospar2018.org/
Updated!	July 22-27, 2018 Moscow, Russia	81st Annual Meeting of The Meteoritical Society http://metsoc81-moscow.ru/
	August 7-9, 2018 Laurel, MD, USA	Lunar Polar Volatiles https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarvolatiles2018/
	August 27-30, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets III https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/climatology2018/
	September 11-14, 2018 Niseko, Japan	International Venus Conference 2018 https://www.cps-jp.org/~akatsuki/venus2018/
	September 12-14, 2018 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events
	Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2018 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	Bombardment: Shaping Planetary Surfaces and Their Environments, NCTS# 28520-18 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/first-billion-years/

Fourth Quarter, 2018

	October 1-3, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	Late Mars Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/latemars2018/
	November 4-7, 2018 Indianapolis, IN, USA	2018 GSA Annual Meeting https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2018.aspx
	November 26, 2018	Insight landing

Seasons on Mars

	MY34	MY35	MY36
Start of Northern Spring / L _s 0	5/05/2017	3/23/2019	2/07/2021
Start of Northern Summer / L _s 90	11/20/2017	10/08/2019	8/25/2021
Start of Northern Autumn / L _s 180	5/22/2018	4/08/2020	2/24/2022
Start of Northern Winter / L _s 270	10/16/2018	9/02/2020	7/21/2022

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Good Friday	3/30/2018	4/19/2019	4/10/20	4/2/2021
Rosh Hashanah	9/10/2018	9/30/2019	9/19/20	9/7/2021
Yom Kippur	9/19/2018	10/09/2019	9/28/20	9/16/2021
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/08/2018	10/14/2019	10/12/20	10/11/2021
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/22/2018	11/28/2019	11/26/20	11/25/2021
Christmas Day	12/25/2018	12/25/2019	12/25/20	12/25/2021

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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

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