

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

February 2018

Mars Science News

MEPAG Meeting 36; 1st Circular and Hotel Information now Posted

MEPAG Meeting 36 will be held April 3-5, 2018 at the [Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport](#) (1999 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202). The first circular has been posted to the meeting website (<https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm>). In particular, we draw your attention to:

The forum held on the 1st meeting day will start discussions regarding Mars preparation for the next Planetary Science Decadal Survey. Abstracts for presentation within this forum are solicited, and are due February 22. Information about the abstract submission process and the wide scope of potential abstract topics and can be found in the 1st Circular.

Early career travel grants are available for a limited number of applicants. Please consult the following link for application materials. (<https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/student.cfm?expand=student>). Further information is available in the 1st Circular, but with an updated application deadline of February 22, 2018.

A room block has been made available at \$253/night (GSA rate) for the nights of April 2-4; this room block will be open through March 12. To make a reservation at this rate, please use the following link: [Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport GROUP RATE LINK](#). NOTE: The regular room rate at this hotel may be lower than the GSA rate – so we recommend checking out the Marriott site (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wascc-crystal-city-marriott-at-reagan-national-airport/>) without the meeting code before making use of the room block.

If you intend to attend MEPAG Meeting 36 in-person, please register at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5ryntC2pTy7D3rjTsXdRoibOMDVyaYmRYR0Hsb4IDf0BSSA/viewform>. Registration is not required for attendance,

MEPAG Virtual meeting (VM#1)

The first virtual MEPAG meeting of the year will be at 1:00-3:00 p.m. EST (10-noon PST) on Tuesday, February 20, 2018. Connection information is available at the meeting website (<https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm>).

Agenda:

MEPAG Announcements	1:00-1:10 p.m. EST
NASA Update	1:10-1:30
Discussion of MEPAG Meeting 36 (including forum)	1:30-2:45
Progress on MSR Technologies	1:45-2:30
Discussion and Wrap-up	2:30-3:00

MEPAG Meet-and-Greet at LPSC

On Thursday, March 22 (12-1:15 p.m., Shenandoah room), you are invited to meet with some of the members of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) Executive and Goals Committees (including new members) and find out more about the role of MEPAG in community discussions and studies regarding the Mars Exploration Program. This is an opportunity to speak with MEPAG Executive and Goals Committee members, as well as Mars Program Office staff (information about MEPAG membership, structure, and events can be found at <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/about.cfm>). Note that this informal event is not a MEPAG meeting, but instead is an opportunity to directly ask questions and communicate concerns to MEPAG leadership.

2018 NASA Planetary Science Summer Seminar Applications due April 2



February 2018

NASA is accepting applications - from science and engineering post-docs, recent PhDs, doctoral students, engineering students within 6-9 months of completion of their master's degree but not planning to pursue a PhD degree, and junior faculty - for its 30th Annual Planetary Science Summer Seminar, which will be held August 6-10, 2018 at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. During the program and pre-session webinars, student teams will carry out the equivalent of an early mission concept study, prepare a proposal authorization presentation, present it to a review board, and receive feedback. By the end of the session, students will have a clearer understanding of the life cycle of a space mission; relationships between mission design, cost, and schedule; and the tradeoffs necessary to stay within cost and schedule while preserving the quality of science. Applications are due April 2, 2018. Partial financial support is available for a limited number of individuals. Further information is available at <http://psss.jpl.nasa.gov>

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
February 20	2018 Cordilleran and Rocky Mountain Sectional Meeting of the Geological Society of America , Abstract Deadline
February 22	MEPAG 36, Forum Abstract Deadline, Early Career travel grant
February 27	2nd International Mars Sample Return Conference , Indication of Interest
February 28	9th Workshop on Catastrophic Disruption in the Solar System (CD9) , Abstract Deadline, Early Registration Deadline
March 1	Differentiation: Building the Internal Architecture of Planets , Abstract Deadline
March 1	European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2018 , Early Registration Deadline
March 6	Workshop: Carbon in the Solar System , Abstract Deadline
March 7	Ocean Worlds 3: Water-silicate Interactions , Abstract Deadline
March 10	15th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-15) , Abstract Deadline
March 27	Advances in Space Mass Spectrometry for the Search of Extraterrestrial Signs of Life , Registration Deadline
March 29	Planetary & Terrestrial Mapping Sciences Symposium , Abstract Deadline
March 30	Goldschmidt Conference 2018 , Abstract Deadline
April 1	Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics , Registration Deadline
April 6	Lunar Polar Volatiles , Indication of Interest
April 6	Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets III , Indication of Interest
April 6	International Venus Conference 2018 , Abstract Deadline
April 11	Amazonian Climate Workshop , Abstract Deadline, Student Travel Grant Application Deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops 2018

First Quarter 2018		
	February 20, 2018 Virtual Meeting	Virtual MEPAG Meeting https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm
	February 21-23, 2018 Hampton, VA, USA	Outer Planets Assessment Group (OPAG) Meeting https://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/
	February 27-28, 2018 Madrid, Spain	From Mars Express to Exomars http://upwards.iaa.es/content/mars-express-exomars

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

	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
	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/
	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
	April 13-15 2018 Reno, NV, USA	SoCIA 2018: Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology http://spaceref.com/calendar/calendar.html?pid=9490
	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/
New!	April 25-27, 2018 Denver, CO, USA	Workshop: Carbon in the Solar System https://carbon-workshop.arc.nasa.gov/
	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

Second Quarter, 2018

	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
New!	May 8-10, 2018 Washington, DC, USA	Humans to Mars Summit https://h2m.exploremars.org/
	May 7-11, 2018 Pasadena, CA, USA	Differentiation: Building the Internal Architecture of Planets , NCTS# 28518-18 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/differentiation2018/
	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
New!	May 15-16, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	Closing Planetary Protection Knowledge Gaps for Future Human Missions http://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section_Meetings/GSA/Sections/rm/2018mtg/home.aspx
New!	May 15-17, 2018 Flagstaff, AZ USA	2018 Cordilleran & Rocky Mountain Sectional Meeting of the Geological Society of America http://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section_Meetings/GSA/Sections/rm/2018mtg/home.aspx Sessions: T21 Recent Advances in Planetary Geoscience / T22 Earth as a Stepping Stone for Planetary Exploration / T23 Integrating Composition and Morphology / T24 Understanding Basin Environments and Evolution Beyond Earth / Field trip of potential interest to Mars community—The Holey Tour: Planetary Analog Sites of Northern Arizona
Updated!	May 15-16, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	2nd COSPAR Workshop on Refining the Planetary Protection Requirements https://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/humanworkshop2018
New!	May 16-18, 2018 Orleans, France	Advances in Space Mass Spectrometry for the Search of Extraterrestrial Signs of Life http://www.lestudium-ias.com/event/advances-space-mass-spectrometry-search-extraterrestrial-signs-life-0
	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 Session Title: <i>New views of ancient Mars</i>
New!	June 4-5, 2018 Troy, NY, USA	1st Annual RPI Workshop on Image-Based Modeling and Navigation for Space Applications http://mane.rpi.edu/space-imaging-workshop
	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 Roundtable 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/
	June 25-29, 2018 Rotorua, New Zealand	Astrobiology Australasia Meeting Astrobiology Australasia Meeting
	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/
	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/
New!	August 12-17, 2018 Boston, MA, USA	Goldschmidt Conference 2018 https://goldschmidt.info/2018/ Session: I I d: From Source to Sink - Geochemical Sulfur Cycles on Earth and Mars
	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
New!	December 10-14, 2018 Washington, DC, USA	American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting https://fallmeeting.agu.org/2017/

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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