

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

March 2018

Mars Science News

2nd Circular (w/ agenda) & forum abstracts posted for MEPAG Meeting 36

MEPAG Meeting 36: April 3-5, 2018 @Crystal City Marriott, Arlington, VA

The 2nd Informational Circular for the 36th meeting of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) has been posted to the MEPAG Meeting 36 webpage (<https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m36>). Information about meeting logistics and the current (near-final) agenda are included in this circular.

Also posted are the nearly 30 abstracts submitted for the forum that will be held on the 1st day of the Meeting and that will feed into discussions about future MEPAG activities, along with additional description of the aim of the forum (including instructions for presenters). We look forward to the forum presentations and discussion!

As stated in the 2nd Circular:

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. In particular, we are interested in concepts that address high priority science questions that could be addressed in parallel with or after Mars sample return. The forum on the afternoon of the first day has 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. Over 20 abstracts were submitted for presentation at this forum (and these will shortly be posted to the meeting website), which should lead to some very diverse and interesting discussions. Discussion following this forum will aim to help later planning of studies or workshops commissioned by MEPAG or MEP to mature specific concepts or to define technological areas for potential later investment.

The meeting will also include Mars Exploration Program reports from NASA Headquarters, discussions regarding proposed changes to the MEPAG Goals Document from the polar science community, preparations for the next Decadal Survey and a summary of the first day's forum, status reports from operating and planned Mars missions and other space agencies, and reports from recent Mars-relevant workshops and conferences.

The meeting is open to all members of the Mars science and exploration communities and we welcome our international colleagues. We will also broadcast the meeting online for those who cannot attend in-person.

Finally, a reminder that 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, but aids with meeting planning and namebadge printing. (Note that registration is completely separate from forecasting.) The online registration will be open until March 23. Please email questions about the meeting to mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov.

MEPAG February 20th Virtual Meeting (VMI) presentations & summary are posted

Thank you to attendees at the MEPAG virtual meeting VMI. The MEPAG and NASA presentations given at the MEPAG virtual meeting held February 20th are now available on the meeting website (<https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=vml>), along with the Meeting Summary.

Some special Mars-relevant peripheral events at LPSC

<https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2018/events/>

Monday, 3/19: **JMARS Showcase** (12:00-1:15 PM, Grogan's Mill)

Wednesday, 3/21: **Walk on Mars with THEMIS** (6:00-8:30 PM, Waterway 4-5)

Thursday, 3/22: **Meet the MEPAG Committee Members** (12:00-1:15 PM, Shenandoah room)

And all week a MEPAG Executive Committee-submitted poster will be in **poster spot #381**. This poster outlines current thinking regarding MEPAG preparation for the next Planetary Science Decadal Survey (a topic which will be discussed in-depth at MEPAG Meeting 36, April 3-5, <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m36>).

Student Travel Grant available for Mars Wkshp on Amazonian & Present-Day Climate

Deadline: April 11, 2018

Workshop: June 18-22, 2018 @Lakewood, CO, USA, <https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/amazonian2018/>

The Mars Program Office is offering up to three student travel grants to undergraduate and graduate students with Mars-related research interests, who are US citizens or legal residents. The travel grant application is due on the abstract deadline (April 11) and is posted on the MEPAG site: <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/student.cfm?expand=student>. Questions about the travel grant should be directed to Dr. Serina Diniega (serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov).

10th Int. Summer School on Radar/SAR Systems - Application deadline is approaching

Workshop: July 13-20, 2018 @Bonn, Germany, <http://www.radarsummerschool.fraunhofer.de>

The deadline for the 10th International Summer School on Radar/SAR, which takes place from 13-20 July 2018 near Bonn, Germany, is approaching. For more information about the Summer School or to download the application form, visit <http://www.radarsummerschool.fraunhofer.de>. Specific queries regarding the summer school should be addressed to summerschool@fhr.fraunhofer.de or matthias.weiss@fhr.fraunhofer.de.

The fee, which includes full board and lodging, and handout-material, is for students 600 Euro, PhD candidates 900 Euro, and all others 1200 Euro for the whole summer school week. The participants have only to organize and pay their travel to Haus Humboldtstein, the location of the Summer School. See the programme for more detail.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
March 19	52nd ESLAB Symposium - Comparative aeronomy and plasma environment of terrestrial planets , Registration Deadline Advances in Space Mass Spectrometry for the Search of Extraterrestrial Signs of Life , Abstract Deadline
March 23	MEPAG Meeting 36 , Registration Deadline (for logistics planning/printed namebadges only)
March 27	Advances in Space Mass Spectrometry for the Search of Extraterrestrial Signs of Life , Registration Deadline
March 28	Ocean Worlds 3: Water-silicate Interactions , Abstract Deadline
March 29	Planetary & Terrestrial Mapping Sciences Symposium , Abstract Deadline
March 30	Goldschmidt Conference 2018 , Abstract Deadline Space Resources Roundtable , Abstract Deadline

Near-term Due Dates (next three months) - cont.

Due	Project
April 1	iCubeSat 2018 - The 7th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop , Abstract Deadline Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics , Registration Deadline
April 2	Closing Planetary Protection Knowledge Gaps for Future Human Missions , Indication of Interest
April 4	Planetary Geologic Mappers Annual Meeting , Abstract Deadline, MPO Student Travel Grant Application Deadline
April 6	Lunar Polar Volatiles , Indication of Interest Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets III , Indication of Interest
April 11	Mars Workshop on Amazonian and Present Day Climate , Abstract & Student Travel Grant Application Deadline
April 15	6th European Lunar Symposium , Early Registration Deadline
April 20	Asia Oceania Geosciences Society . Early Registration Deadline
May 4	Space Resources Roundtable , Early Registration Deadline
May 8	81st Annual Meeting of The Meteoritical Society , Abstract Deadline
May 18	Mars Workshop on Amazonian and Present Day Climate , Early Registration 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

March 17-18, 2018 The Woodlands, TX, USA	Microsymposium 59: The Chinese Lunar and Deep Space Exploration Program http://www.planetary.brown.edu/html_pages/micro59.htm
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	NASEM 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 Meeting 36 , NCTS # 32452-18 https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m36
	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/
New!	April 23-25, 2018 Lausanne, Switzerland	Technologies and Infrastructures Workshop for Planetary Exploration, towards 2061 https://planetaryexploration2061.epfl.ch/
	April 24-26, 2018 St. Louis, MO, USA	Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics https://psida.rsl.wustl.edu/
	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
	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
	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 14-18, 2018 Noordwijk, The Netherlands	52nd ESLAB Symposium - Comparative aeronomy and plasma environment of terrestrial planets https://atpi.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/52nd-eslab-symposium-comparative-aeronomy-of-terrestrial-planets/52ndeslabwebsite
New!	May 14-16, 2018 Toulouse, France	6th 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 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 <i>Planetary 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</i> <i>Field trip: The Holey Tour: Planetary Analog Sites of Northern Arizona</i>

Second Quarter, 2018—cont.

	May 15-16, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	Closing Planetary Protection Knowledge Gaps for Future Human Missions https://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/humanworkshop2018
	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>
	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 12-14, 2018 Knoxville, TN, USA	Planetary Geologic Mappers Annual Meeting https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/pgm2018/
	June 12-15, 2018 Golden, CO, USA	Space Resources Roundtable http://www.csmospace.com/events/srr/
	June 12-15, 2018 Golden, CO, USA	Planetary & Terrestrial Mapping Sciences Symposium https://www.deltion.ca/ptmss
	June 12-15, 2018 Pasadena, CA, USA	Geobiology 2018 http://web.gps.caltech.edu/GBcourse/
New!	June 13-14, 2018 College Park, MD	19th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group https://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/
	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
New!	June 25-29, 2018 Bordeaux, France	International Conference on Aeolian Research (ICAR) https://colloque.inra.fr/icar2018/Program <i>There is a special session on Planetary Aeolian Research.</i>
	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 8-10, 2018 Boulder, CO, USA	The 9th Planetary Crater Consortium http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/
	August 12-17, 2018 Boston, MA, USA	Goldschmidt Conference 2018 https://goldschmidt.info/2018/ Session: I Id: From Source to Sink - Geochemical Sulfur Cycles on Earth and Mars
New!	August 15-17, 2018 Fayetteville, AR, USA	Experimental Analysis of the Outer Solar System Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/exoss2018/
	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	NASEM Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events
New!	September 24-27, 2018 Honolulu, HI, USA	Multispectral, Hyperspectral, and Ultraspectral Remote Sensing Technology, Techniques and Applications VII http://spie.org/AE/conferencedetails/multispectral-hyperspectral-and-ultraspectral-remote-sensing?SSO=1
New!	September 24-28, 2018 Berlin, Germany	European Astrobiology Conference (EANA 2018) http://www.eana-net.eu/index.php?page=Conferences/EANA2018
	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/
	October 8-12, 2018 Moscow, Russia	Ninth Moscow International Solar System Symposium (9M-S3)
	November 4-7, 2018 Indianapolis, IN, USA	2018 GSA Annual Meeting https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2018.aspx Session: Planetary Aeolian Geology from Outcrop to Orbit: Nathan Bridges Memorial
	November 26, 2018	Insight landing
	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	4/10/2020	4/2/2021
Rosh Hashanah	9/10/2018	9/30/2019	9/19/2020	9/7/2021
Yom Kippur	9/19/2018	10/09/2019	9/28/2020	9/16/2021
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/08/2018	10/14/2019	10/12/2020	10/11/2021
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/22/2018	11/28/2019	11/26/2020	11/25/2021
Christmas Day	12/25/2018	12/25/2019	12/25/2020	12/25/2021

Editors

David Beaty	David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-7968
Serina Diniega	Serina.Diniega@jpl.nasa.gov	818-393-1487
Barbara Saltzberg	Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-0226

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 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), please send an email from your email account to: mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov.