

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

May 2017

Mars Science News

White Paper on the Participating Scientist Progress now Available

A white paper has been posted to the LPI website, regarding the value of Participating Scientist (PS) programs within NASA's planetary mission portfolio. The paper, led by LPI Director Louise Prockter and coauthored by representatives of the NASA Analysis and Assessment groups (including Jeff Johnson and Serina Diniega of MEPAG), is based on data collected from surveys of the planetary science community and mission leadership. Overwhelming support was found for PS programs, which provide significant value in increasing intellectual and demographic diversity among mission science teams. The white paper's authors conclude that greater consistency in timing, funding, and approach could make PS programs even more effective and useful to NASA; as a result, they make eight recommendations, including that PS programs should be included on every planetary mission.

The paper is available at http://www.lpi.usra.edu/analysis/reports/Value_of_Participating_Scientist_Programs_to_NASA_white_paper_final.pdf. Additionally, a link to this paper is included on the MEPAG webpage, under Mars Community Announcements: <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/announcements.cfm?expand=general>.

First Community Meeting of Mapping and Planetary Spatial Infrastructure Team (MAPSIT)

June 15, 2017, Flagstaff, Arizona

In conjunction with the 3rd Planetary Data Workshop in Flagstaff, Arizona (June 12-15, 2017; <http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/planetdata2017/>), participants are invited to attend the 1st MAPSIT community meeting. More information on MAPSIT's vision, archives, and resources can be found at the MAPSIT website: <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/mapsit/>.

[NASA] New Internet Addresses for PDS Discipline Nodes

Due to evolving government cybersecurity requirements, the Internet addresses (URLs) of five Discipline Nodes of the Planetary Data System (PDS) have changed. The new URLs are: Atmospheres (<http://pds-atmospheres.nmsu.edu>) Geosciences (<http://pds-geosciences.wustl.edu>) Planetary Plasma Interactions (<http://pds-ppi.igpp.ucla.edu>); Ring-Moon Systems (<http://pds-rings.seti.org>); Small Bodies (<https://pds-smallbodies.astro.umd.edu>).

The URLs for the Engineering and Management Nodes, and the Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility have not changed. The PDS apologizes for any disruptions that these changes cause.

Mars Science News

PDS4 Data Archiving Training Session at the 3rd Planetary Data Workshop

The current format standard for archiving data with the NASA Planetary Data System (PDS) is called PDS4. This standard has been required for data archives from NASA-funded missions and for small data archives since 2011. There will be a PDS4 archiving training event scheduled for June 14, 2017 in Flagstaff, in association with the 3rd Planetary Data Workshop. See: <https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/planetdata2017>. This 1-day session will include distribution of a virtual box with archiving software, examples and documentation. Topics will include an introduction to PDS4 concepts and vocabulary and hands-on training on how to design a bundle and collections and on development of basic product labels for a simple table and image file. Experienced PDS staff will be on-hand to answer questions and offer help as needed. For more information about PDS4, please refer to information on and linked to the NASA PDS4 site: <https://pds.nasa.gov/pds4/about/portal.shtml>.

Request for Input: Planetary Geoscience Mapping

Please use the following link to provide much-needed anonymous input regarding planetary geoscience mapping; bit.ly/map_input. This request takes <5 minutes and covers all types of mapping efforts focused on non-terrestrial bodies. Poll results will be discussed at the Planetary Geologic Mapper's annual meeting, and will help inform how planetary geoscience mapping efforts can be improved. Results and paths forward will be posted on the MAPSIT webpage (<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/mapsit/>) by end of summer. Thank you; your input is critical!

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
May 20	9th International Conference on Geomorphology , Abstract Deadline
May 26	Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference , Abstract Deadline
June 1	Accretion: Building New Worlds , Abstract Deadline
June 15	Geosciences for Understanding Habitability in the Universe , Abstract Deadline
June 15	33rd International Meeting of Planetary Sedimentology: Mars, Titan, and Elsewhere , Abstract Deadline
July 13	51st ESLAB Symposium: Extreme Habitable Worlds , Abstract Deadline
July 18	The Fourth International Conference on Early Mars , Abstract Deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

A note about “conferences” and this calendar of events

- Missing NCTS#s (and forecasting deadline, if anomalous) can be sent to Meredith Cosby (meredith.a.cosby@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.

Second Quarter, 2017

	May 15-19, 2017 Boulder, CO, USA	International Conference on Mars Aeronomy http://lasp.colorado.edu/meetings/marsaeronomy2017/index.php NCTS# 26278-17
	May 16-19, 2017 St. George, UT, USA	Fifth International Planetary Dunes Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2017/ NCTS# 28521-17
	May 23-25, 2017 Honolulu, HI, USA	2017 GSA Cordilleran Section https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Sections/cd/2017mtg/home.aspx NCTS# 28240-17 T16 New Developments in the Geology and Geochemistry of Mars, T17 Volcanism Across the Solar System, T18 Deposition and Diagenesis of Volcaniclastic Sediments on Earth and Mars, T19 Mars On Earth: Understanding Mars Through Earth Surface Processes
	May 30-31, 2017 Cambridge, UK	6th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop https://icubesat.org NCTS# 27834-17
	June 6-8, 2017 Beijing, China	Global Space Exploration Conference http://www.glex2017.org/
	June 12-15, 2017 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	3rd Planetary Data Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/planetdata2017/ NCTS 28154-17
	June 12-16, 2017 The Hague, Netherlands	14th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-14) http://esaconferencebureau.com/2017-events/ippw-14/home NCTS# 28770-17
	June 13-15, 2017 Greenbelt, MD, USA	17th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group (S-BAG) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/
	June 13-15, 2017 Houston, TX, USA	Dust in the Atmosphere of Mars and Its Impact on the Human Exploration of Mars http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marsdust2017/ NCTS#28194-17
New!	June 17-18, 2017 South Hadley, Mam USA	Origins of Solar Systems: The Foundations of Planets https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=12346
New!	June 18-23, 2017 South Hadley, MA, USA	Origins of Solar Systems: Making a Planet Habitable https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=12346

Third Quarter, 2017

New!	July 3-5, 2017 Berlin, Germany	1st IUGG Symposium on Planetary Science http://www.dlr.de/pf/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-11789
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Third Quarter, 2017

	July 16-21, 2017 San Diego, CA, USA	The XVIIIth International Conference on the Origin of Life http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/issol2017/ NCTS# 27115-17
	July 18-20, 2017 Moffett Field, CA, USA	4th annual NASA Exploration Science Forum (ESF) https://nesf2017.arc.nasa.gov/
	July 24-27, 2017 Santa Fe, NM, USA	Meteoritical Society Meeting http://meteoriticalsociety.org/?page_id=18 NCS#28933-17
	July 24-28, 2017 Pasadena, CA, USA	NASA Planetary Science Summer School https://psss.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm
New!	August 8-10, 2017 Tartu, Estonia	The Early History of Planetary Systems and Habitable Planets https://sisu.ut.ee/eac
New!	August 9-11, 2017 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	8th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/PCCMeeting.htm
	August 13-16, 2017 Hong Kong, China	2017 International Symposium on Planetary Remote Sensing and Mapping http://event.lsgi.polyu.edu.hk/prsm2017/ NCTS# 29650-17
	August 15-17, 2017 Pasadena, CA, USA	Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference (LCPM-12) http://www.lcpm12.org/
	August 15 -18, 2017 Houston, TX, USA	Accretion: Building New Worlds http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/accretion2017/ NCTS# 28309-17
	September 13-14, 2017 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events
	September 17-22, 2017 Riga, Latvia	European Planetary Science Congress http://www.epsc2017.eu/
	September 18-22, 2017 Jeju Island, South Korea	The 3rd COSPAR Symposium; Small Satellites for Space Research Abstract Submission is now open https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/
New!	September 25-27, 2017 Jena, Germany	Planet Formation and Evolution 2017 http://www.astro.uni-jena.de/~pfe2017/ NCTS# 27623-17
Updated!	September 25-29, 2017 Adelaide, Australia	68th International Astronautical Congress http://www.iac2017.org/ NCTS# 27783-17
New!	September 25-29, 2017 Furnas, Azores, Portugal	Geosciences for Understanding Habitability in the Universe http://www.egu-galileo.eu/gc2-habitability/

Fourth Quarter, 2017

	October 2-6, 2017 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	The Fourth International Conference on Early Mars https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/earlymars2017/
Updated!	October 10-12, 2017 Toulouse, France	33rd International Meeting of Planetary Sedimentology: Mars, Titan, and Elsewhere ims2017.sciencesconf.org

Fourth Quarter, 2017

New!	October 15-20, 2017 Provo, UTA, USA	Division of Planetary Sciences Meeting https://dps.aas.org/
New!	October 22 –25, 2017 Seattle, WA, USA	2017 GSA Annual Meeting https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2017.aspx NCTS# 28544-18
	November 6-11, 2017 New Dehli, India	9th International Conference on Geomorphology; S32 Planetary Geomorphology http://www.icg2017.com/
New!	November 11-12, 2017 Budapest, Hungary	The Workshop on Modern Analytical Methods Applied to Earth, Planetary and Material Sciences II https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/methods2017/
New!	November 13-17, 2017 Laramie, WY, USA	Habitable Worlds 2017: A System Science Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/habitableworlds2017/
	November 14-16, 2017 Laurel, Maryland USA	VEXAG Meeting #15 Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/
New!	Nov 26-Dec 1, 2017 Coyhaique, Chile	Astrobiology 2017 http://astrobiology2017.org/ NCTS# 28382-18
Updated!	December 4-8, 2017 Noordwijk, Netherlands	51st ESLAB Symposium: Extreme Habitable Worlds http://esaconferencebureau.com/2017-events/eslab2017
	December 11-15, 2017 New Orleans, LA, USA	American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting (AGU) http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/2017-fall-meeting-new-orleans/

2018

	March 5, 2018	Insight launch window opens
	March 19-23, 2017 The Woodlands, TX, USA	49th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	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
	April 23-27, 2018 San Gabriel Valley, CA, USA	Differentiation: Building the Internal Architecture of Planets
New!	April 24-26, 2018 St. Louis, MO, USA	Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics https://psida.rsl.wustl.edu/
	September 12-13, 2018 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events
Updated!	Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2018 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	Bombardment: Shaping Planetary Surfaces and Their Environments http://www.lpi.usra.edu/first-billion-years/
	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	4/14/2017	3/30/2018	4/19/2019	4/10/2020
Rosh Hashanah	9/21/2017	9/10/2018	9/30/2019	9/19/2020
Yom Kippur	9/30/2017	9/19/2018	10/09/2019	9/28/2020
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/09/2017	10/08/2018	10/14/2019	10/12/2020
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/23/2017	11/22/2018	11/28/2019	11/26/2020
Christmas Day	12/25/2017	12/25/2018	12/25/2019	12/25/2020

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Please send Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's newsletter to:

Meredith Cosby at Meredith.a.cosby@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 fill out the online form: <http://goo.gl/forms/WilmhPI M9V> (also linked on the MEPAG website <http://mepag.nasa.gov/>, under Updates).