

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

August 2018

Mars Science News

(UPDATED) Final call for comments on proposed updates to MEPAG Goals II and III

As this final reminder notice was released after the deadline—the deadline has been moved a few more days.

We look forward to hearing from you.

From the MEPAG Goals Chair: “The MEPAG Goals Committee reps for Goals II and III have identified a significant discrepancy between the current state of the field, and the existing (2015) MEPAG Goals document in the area of Polar Science and aeolian processes. This discrepancy was highlighted following the 6th International Mars Polar Science and Exploration Conference (2016), and the summary report outlining the priorities as identified by the Polar Science Community. Over the last year, the MEPAG Goal II & III committee members have worked with the Polar Science Community to develop a proposed set of changes to the MEPAG Goals Document, specifically just Goals II & III. A key step in revising the MEPAG Goals Document is the incorporation of inputs from a broad cross-section of the community. It is crucial that we receive feedback from the Mars community at large to ensure that the Goals Document faithfully represents a consensus view of the priorities of our whole community. Therefore, we invite you to review the proposed changes, and we solicit your feedback on them.”

Comments are solicited through **Wednesday, August 15, 2018** (original deadline was Friday 8/10). Both positive and negative comments are welcomed, and comments can be submitted anonymously. For more information and the link to the comment collection form, please see the **Spring 2018 MEPAG Goals (III/Obj. A & B and III/Obj. A) – Proposed Update**, which is posted along with the 2015 MEPAG Goals Document at <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/reports.cfm?expand=science>.

Mid-term Planetary Sciences Decadal Survey Report now available

The “Review of Progress Toward Implementing the Decadal Survey Vision and Voyages for Planetary Sciences” Report is now available from the NASEM committee website: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/ssb/currentprojects/ssb_177619. In addition to describing the most significant advances and discoveries since the current Decadal Survey (Visions and Voyages) was published in 2011, and assessing the degree to which NASA’s current planetary science program addresses the strategies, goals, and priorities outlined in the V&V and other relevant NRC and Academies reports, the committee was tasked with assessing the Planetary Science Division’s Mars exploration architecture and long-term goals. Furthermore, the committee was to recommend any actions that could be taken to optimize the science value of the planetary science program and actions that should be undertaken to prepare for the next decadal survey.

The MEPAG community will be briefed on this report by Co-Chair Dr. Louise Prockter at the next MEPAG virtual meeting to be scheduled in late August/early September.

New Opportunity in Mars 2020 Returned Sample Science Participating Scientist Program (ROSES-18)

The preparation of a cache of Martian rock and regolith samples for possible return to Earth via a future mission is a central objective of the Mars 2020 mission. The Returned Sample Science Participating Scientist (RSS PS) program seeks individuals whose addition to the mission’s science team will enhance the value of the samples to be selected, characterized, and cached by the Mars 2020 Rover. The selected investigators should anticipate the needs of future investigators who may analyze these samples for a very diverse range of studies in Earth-based laboratories. Selected RSSPSs will become members of the Mars 2020 Science Team and are expected to contribute collaboratively to any and all aspects of the surface science mission. Mandatory NOIs due by August 24, 2018, and proposals are due by October 24, 2018. See announcement NNH18ZDA001N at: <http://nspires.nasaprs.com/>. Questions concerning this program element may be directed to Mitch Schulte at Mitchell.D.Schulte@nasa.gov.

August 2018

4th Mars 2020 Rover Landing Site Workshop; 16 – 18 October, Glendale, CA

The **Second Announcement for the Fourth Mars 2020 Rover Landing Site Workshop** has been posted to marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov. The “Landing Site Engineering Assessment Preview”, the “NASA Mars Program Office Statement Regarding Mars 2020 Landing Site Selection” and information on the development of the Midway Ellipse are also available on this web site, along with logistics information.

- Presentations focusing on unique/new science content, increasing confidence in the interpretations of the science potential of the sites, and/or detailing potential extended mission targets are encouraged. Overview talks related to the sites and topics that have been discussed at prior workshops are discouraged. **Persons wishing to make a presentation (focused as described above) at the workshop, should submit the title of their talk to John Grant (grantj@si.edu) and Matt Golombek (mgolombek@jpl.nasa.gov) by September 15, 2018.**
- **Registration** for the workshop is open until **Friday, Oct 5** at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQ09vTvB3rqJXPQINPNxIZL7XSjK_zCHGMejVkvks8zlbABQ/viewform
If your institution requires travel forecasting, please note that registration is completely separate from the forecasting system. Registration information is collected in order to determine seating counts and print name badges.
- **Workshop Hotel Information**
A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the workshop site, the Hilton Los Angeles North/Glendale & Executive Meeting Center, and will be available until **September 17 or until the block is sold-out**, whichever comes first. Rates are \$173 per night. Reservations can be made on-line at: http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/B/BURHGHF-JPL-20181015/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG or by calling 818-551-4023 (Group name is ‘JPL’ or the workshop title).
- **Student Travel Grants for the Workshop**
MPO Student Travel Grants are available for up to 3 US undergraduate or graduate students engaged in relevant Mars-related research. An application must be submitted by **August 29, 2018**. For more information, see: <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/student.cfm?expand=student>

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
August 11	International Venus Conference 2018 , Registration Deadline
August 13	Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets III , Registration Deadline, Student and Early Career Travel Support
August 14	2018 GSA Annual Meeting, Abstract Deadline , Abstract Deadline
August 17	European Astrobiology Conference (EANA 2018) , Early Registration Deadline
August 15	Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group , Student Travel Award Application
August 29	4th Mars 2020 Rover Landing Site Selection Workshop , Student Travel Grant Request Deadline
August 31	Bombardment: Shaping Planetary Surfaces and Their Environments , Early Registration Deadline
August 31	50th Meeting of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences , Late Abstract Deadline, Registration Deadline
September 7	International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM) 2018 , Late Registration Deadline
September 10	Europa Deep Dive 2: Composition , Early Registration Deadline
September 15	4th Mars 2020 Rover Landing Site Selection Workshop , Presentation Title Submission Deadline
September 18	Bombardment: Shaping Planetary Surfaces and Their Environments , Registration Deadline
September 19	Venus Exploration Analysis Group Meeting , Abstract Deadline
September 21	Ninth Moscow International Solar System Symposium (9M-S3) , Registration Deadline
September 25	Europa Deep Dive 2: Composition , Registration Deadline
September 28	Mars Extant Life: What’s Next? Indication of Interest
September 28	50th Meeting of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences , Late Registration Deadline

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
October 1	2018 GSA Annual Meeting , Registration Deadline
October 5	4th Mars 2020 Rover Landing Site Selection Workshop , Registration Deadline
October 19	IEEE Aerospace Conference , Paper Submission
October 26	16th Venus Exploration Analysis Group meeting , Registration 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 Barbara Saltzberg (Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov).
- If no deadline is noted: it is usually 60 days in advance for domestic meetings — 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.


Third Quarter, 2018

	August 12-17, 2018 Boston, MA, USA	Goldschmidt Conference 2018 , NCTS# 32184-18 https://goldschmidt.info/2018/ Session: 11d: From Source to Sink - Geochemical Sulfur Cycles on Earth and Mars
	August 12-17, 2018 Boulder, CO, USA	Cassini Science Symposium , NCTS# 33060-18 http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/2018-cassini-science-symposium
	August 15-17, 2018 Fayetteville, AR, USA	Experimental Analysis of the Outer Solar System Workshop , NCTS# 33887-18 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/exoss2018/
	August 16-17 Green Belt, MD, USA	3rd Planetary CubeSat Science Symposium , NCTS# 34422-18 https://cubesats.gsf.nasa.gov/symposium.html
	August 27-30, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets III , NCTS# 32374-18 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/climatology2018/ Student and Early Career travel awards — applications due June 13
	September 11-14, 2018 Niseko, Japan	International Venus Conference 2018 , NCTS# 31333-18 https://www.cps-jp.org/~akatsuki/venus2018/
	September 11-12, 2018 Pasadena, CA USA	Outer Planets Assessment Group (OPAG) Meeting , NCTS# 34029-18 https://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/
Updated	September 11-13, 2018 Irvine, CA, USA	NASEM Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events
Updated	September 12-14, 2018 Berlin, Germany	International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM) 2018 NCTS# 34186-18 https://ipm2018.org/
	September 16-21, 2018 Berlin, Germany, USA	European Planetary Science Congress (EPSC) 2018 , NCTS# 32031-18 https://www.epsc2018.eu/
	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
	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 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/bombardment2018/

Fourth Quarter, 2018

	October 1-2, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	Late Mars Workshop , NCTS# 34492-19 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/latemars2018/
New!	October 1-5, 2018 Bremen, Germany	69th International Astronautical Congress http://www.iafastro.org/events/iac/iac-2018/
	October 8-12, 2018 Moscow, Russia	Ninth Moscow International Solar System Symposium (9M-S3) https://ms2018.cosmos.ru/
	October 9-11, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	Europa Deep Dive 2: Composition , NCTS# 34828-19 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/europadeepdive2018/
	October 16-18 Glendale, CA, USA	4th Mars 2020 Rover Landing Site Selection Workshop , NCTS# 34492-19 https://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov/workshops/wkshp_2018_10.cfm
	October 21-26, 2018 Knoxville, TN, USA	50th Meeting of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences , NCTS# 32241-19 https://aas.org/meetings/dps50
	November 4-7, 2018 Indianapolis, IN, USA	2018 GSA Annual Meeting https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2018.aspx <i>T51: Planetary Aeolian Geology from Outcrop to Orbit: Nathan Bridges Memorial Session</i>
	November 6-8, 2018 Laurel, MD, USA	16th Venus Exploration Analysis Group meeting , NCTS# 34829-19 https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/
New!	November 14-15 Columbia, MD, USA	Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2018/
	November 26, 2018	Insight landing
	December 10-14, 2018 Washington, DC, USA	American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting , NCTS# 31561-19 https://fallmeeting.agu.org/2018/

2019

New!	January 29-February 1, 2019 Carlsbad, NM, USA	Mars Extant Life: What's Next? https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lifeonmars2019/
New!	January 29-31, 2019 Houston, TX, USA	20th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group https://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/
	March 2-9, 2019 Big Sky, MT, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference https://www.aeroconf.org/
	March 18-22, 2019 The Woodlands, TX, USA	50th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2019/
	March 26-28, 2019 Washington, DC, USA	NASEM's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events
	July 22-26, 2019 Pasadena, CA, USA	9th International Conference on Mars https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/ninthmars2019/
Updated	September 10-12, 2019 Irvine, CA, USA	NASEM's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events
New!	September 15-19, 2019 [TBD]	The First Billion Years: Habitability https://www.lpi.usra.edu/first-billion-years/ Proposed: Yellowstone National Park, WY, USA
New!	September 15-20, 2019 Geneva, Switzerland	51st Meeting of the AAS Division for Planetary Science https://dps.aas.org/meetings/future
	September 22-25, 2019 Phoenix, AZ, USA	2019 GSA Annual Meeting https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2019.aspx
	December 9-13, 2019 San Francisco, CA, USA	2019 AGU Fall Meeting https://fallmeeting.agu.org/2018/future-meetings/

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

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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

This newsletter (and all previous months') is also posted on the MEPAG website: <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>

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