

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

September 2017

## Mars Science News

### **1st Information Circular 35th MEPAG Meeting September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 *Topical Virtual Meeting***

Members of the Mars community,

I cordially invite you to participate in the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG), scheduled as a virtual meeting on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 10:00am-1:00pm PDT.

Low-cost, “opportunistic” missions may provide a new way of advancing Mars science through observations within the Mars system. This meeting will inform the Mars community about recent work in this area through reports on the mission concepts selected for study under NASA’s Planetary Science Deep Space SmallSat Studies (PSDS3) program (<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/nasa-selects-cubesat-small-sat-mission-concept-studies>). We will hear from the 5 teams selected with Mars System proposals:

Aeolus – to study the thermal and wind environment of Mars, PI Anthony Colaprete, NASA Ames Research Center

MISEN: Mars Ion and Sputtering Escape Network, PI Robert Lillis, University of California Berkeley

MAT: Mars Aerosol Tracker, PI Luca Montabone, Space Science Institute

Chariot to the Moons of Mars, PI David Minton, Purdue University

PRISM: Phobos Regolith Ion Sample Mission, PI Michael Collier, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Additionally, we will report on MEPAG’s involvement in the recent Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference (<http://www.lcpm12.org/>). There will also be a presentation from NASA HQ on the status of discussions about future Mars mission architecture.

The final agenda and connection information will be posted on the MEPAG meeting website (<http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm>) a few days preceding the meeting.

The meeting is open to all members of the Mars science community including our international colleagues. I look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey R. Johnson  
MEPAG Chair

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### **MEP Mid-decadal Presentation: Possible Future Status from the NASA SMD Associate Administrator**

Dr. Thomas Zurbuchen, Associate Administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, presented a status on the Mars Exploration Program to the Committee on the Review of Progress toward Implementing the Decadal Survey Vision and Voyages for Planetary Sciences on August 28. That presentation is available at the following NASEM link.

[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/ssbsite/documents/webpage/ssb\\_181241.pdf](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/ssbsite/documents/webpage/ssb_181241.pdf)

The presentation provides status on existing missions, and opens a discussion of the Mars Exploration Program's possible near future, including an aggressive pathway to Mars sample return.

### Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
September 18	<b>The Fourth International Conference on Early Mars</b> , Early Registration Deadline
September 18	<b>2017 GSA Annual Meeting</b> , Early Registration Deadline
September 26	<b>The Eighth Moscow Solar System Symposium</b> , Registration Deadline
September 28	<b>Back to the Moon Workshop</b> , Registration Deadline
October 12	<b>Habitable Worlds 2017: A System Science Workshop</b> , Early Registration Deadline
November 1	<b>JWST Solar System Workshop</b> , Abstract Due, Registration Deadline
November 3	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> , Early Registration Deadline
November 15	<b>Water During Planet Formation and Evolution</b> , 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 James Ashley ([James.W.Ashley@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:James.W.Ashley@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.

### Third Quarter, 2017

September 17-22, 2017 Riga, Latvia	<b>European Planetary Science Congress</b> NCTS# 29142-17 <a href="http://www.epsc2017.eu/">http://www.epsc2017.eu/</a>
September 18-22, 2017 Goettingen, Germany	<b>The Many Scales of the Universe: Galaxies, Their Suns and Their Planets</b> NCTS# 28609-17 <a href="http://ag2017.uni-goettingen.de/">http://ag2017.uni-goettingen.de/</a>
September 18-22, 2017 Jeju Island, South Korea	<b>The 3rd COSPAR Symposium; Small Satellites for Space Research</b> NCTS# 28434-17 <a href="https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/">https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/</a>
September 25-27, 2017 Jena, Germany	<b>Planet Formation and Evolution 2017</b> NCTS# 27623-17 <a href="http://www.astro.uni-jena.de/~pfe2017/">http://www.astro.uni-jena.de/~pfe2017/</a>
September 25-29, 2017 Adelaide, Australia	<b>68th International Astronautical Congress</b> NCTS# 27783-17 <a href="http://www.iac2017.org/">http://www.iac2017.org/</a>
September 25-29, 2017 Furnas, Azores, Portugal	<b>Geosciences for Understanding Habitability in the Universe</b> <a href="http://www.egu-galileo.eu/gc2-habitability/">http://www.egu-galileo.eu/gc2-habitability/</a>

### Fourth Quarter, 2017

	October 2-6, 2017 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	<b>The Fourth International Conference on Early Mars</b> NCTS# 29455-18 <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/earlymars2017/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/earlymars2017/</a>
	October 9-13, 2017 Moscow, Russia	<b>The Eighth Moscow Solar System Symposium</b> NCTS# 30612-18 <a href="https://ms2017.cosmos.ru/">https://ms2017.cosmos.ru/</a>
	October 10-12, 2017 Columbia, MD	<b>Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG)</b> NCTS# 30482-18 <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2017/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2017/</a>
	October 10-12, 2017 Toulouse, France	<b>33rd International Meeting of Planetary Sedimentology: Mars, Titan, and Elsewhere</b> <a href="http://ims2017.sciencesconf.org">ims2017.sciencesconf.org</a>
	October 12-13, 2017 Columbia, MD	<b>Back to the Moon Workshop</b> NCTS# 30618-18 <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/moon2017/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/moon2017/</a>
	October 15-20, 2017 Provo, UT, USA	<b>49th Division of Planetary Sciences Meeting</b> NCTS# 28527-18 <a href="https://aas.org/meetings/dps49">https://aas.org/meetings/dps49</a>
	October 22 –25, 2017 Seattle, WA, USA	<b>2017 GSA Annual Meeting</b> NCTS# 28544-18 <a href="http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2017/home">http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2017/home</a>

### Fourth Quarter, 2017

	November 6-11, 2017 New Delhi, India	<b>9th International Conference on Geomorphology</b> <a href="http://www.icg2017.com/">http://www.icg2017.com/</a>
	November 7-9, 2017 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>SPICE Training Class</b> <a href="https://naif.jpl.nasa.gov/naif/WVS2017_prelim_announcement">https://naif.jpl.nasa.gov/naif/WVS2017_prelim_announcement</a>
	November 11-12, 2017 Budapest, Hungary	<b>The Workshop on Modern Analytical Methods Applied to Earth, Planetary and Material Sciences II</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/methods2017/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/methods2017/</a>
	November 11-15, 2017 Baltimore, MD, USA	<b>Planning Solar System Observations with JWST</b> <a href="#">Planning Solar System Observations with JWST</a>
	November 13-17, 2017 Laramie, WY, USA	<b>Habitable Worlds 2017: A System Science Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/habitableworlds2017/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/habitableworlds2017/</a>
	November 14-16, 2017 Laurel, Maryland, USA	<b>VEXAG Meeting #15</b> NCTS# 30391-18 Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/</a>
	Nov 26-Dec 1, 2017 Coyhaique, Chile	<b>Astrobiology 2017</b> NCTS# 28382-18 <a href="http://astrobiology2017.org/">http://astrobiology2017.org/</a>
	December 4-8, 2017 Noordwijk, Netherlands	<b>51st ESLAB Symposium: Extreme Habitable Worlds</b> NCTS# 30869-18 <a href="http://esaconferencebureau.com/2017-events/eslab2017">http://esaconferencebureau.com/2017-events/eslab2017</a>
	December 11-15, 2017 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>JWST Proposal and Planning Workshop</b> <a href="#">JWST Proposal and Planning Workshop</a>
<b>New!</b>	December 11-15, 2017 New Orleans, LA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> NCTS# 28919-18 <a href="https://fallmeeting.agu.org/2017/">https://fallmeeting.agu.org/2017/</a>

### Upcoming Conferences and Workshops 2018

#### First Quarter 2018

<b>New!</b>	February 12-16, 2018 Zurich, Switzerland	<b>Water During Planet Formation and Evolution</b> <a href="https://waterzurich.github.io/">https://waterzurich.github.io/</a>
<b>New!</b>	February 27-28, 2018 Madrid, Spain	<b>From Mars Express to Exomars</b> <a href="http://upwards.iaa.es/content/mars-express-exomars">http://upwards.iaa.es/content/mars-express-exomars</a>
	March 3-10, 2018 Big Sky, Montana, USA	<b>IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> NCTS#30394-18 <a href="http://www.aeroconf.org/">http://www.aeroconf.org/</a>
	March 5-9, 2018 Santiago, Chile	<b>Diversis Mundi (OPS-III): The Solar System in an Exoplanetary Context</b> <a href="http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2018/ops2018.html">http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2018/ops2018.html</a>
	March 19-23, 2018 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>49th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> NCTS# 30582-18 <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2018/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2018/</a>
<b>New!</b>	March 27-29, 2018 Washington, DC USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Sciences (CAPS)</b> <a href="http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events">http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events</a>


## Second Quarter, 2018

	April 13-16, 2018 Reno, NV, USA	<b>SoCIA 2018: Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology</b> <a href="http://spaceref.com/calendar/calendar.html?pid=9490">http://spaceref.com/calendar/calendar.html?pid=9490</a>
	April 24-26, 2018 St. Louis, MO, USA	<b>Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics</b> <a href="https://psida.rsl.wustl.edu/">https://psida.rsl.wustl.edu/</a>
<b>New!</b>	May 1-3, 2018 Columbia, MD, USA	<b>Mercury Conference</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/mercury2018/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/mercury2018/</a>
	May 5, 2018 Vandenberg AFB, CA, USA	<b>Insight launch window opens</b>
	May 7-11, 2018 San Gabriel Valley, CA, USA	<b>Differentiation: Building the Internal Architecture of Planets</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/differentiation2018/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/differentiation2018/</a>
	May 14-17, 2018 Toulouse, France	<b>2018 European Lunar Symposium</b> <a href="https://els2018.arc.nasa.gov/">https://els2018.arc.nasa.gov/</a>
	May 14-17, 2018 Kobe, Japan	<b>9th Workshop on Catastrophic Disruption in the Solar System (CD9)</b> <a href="http://www.impact-res.org/CD2018/Catastrophic_Disruption_2018/Welcome.html">http://www.impact-res.org/CD2018/Catastrophic_Disruption_2018/Welcome.html</a>
	June 18-22, 2018 Lakewood, CO	<b>Amazonian Climate Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/amazonian2018/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/amazonian2018/</a>

## Third Quarter, 2018

<b>New!</b>	July 14-22, 2018 Pasadena, CA	<b>COSPAR 2018</b> NCTS# 28500-18 <a href="https://www.cospar-assembly.org/">https://www.cospar-assembly.org/</a>
	September 11-14, 2018 Niseko, Japan	<b>International Venus Conference 2018</b> <a href="https://www.cps-jp.org/~akatsuki/venus2018/">https://www.cps-jp.org/~akatsuki/venus2018/</a>
	September 12-13, 2018 Irvine, CA, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b> <a href="http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events">http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events</a>
	Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2018 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	<b>Bombardment: Shaping Planetary Surfaces and Their Environments</b> NCTS# 28520-18 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/first-billion-years/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/first-billion-years/</a>

## Fourth Quarter, 2018

	November 4-7, 2018 Indianapolis, IN	<b>2018 GSA Annual Meeting</b> <a href="https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2018.aspx">https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2018.aspx</a>
	November 26, 2018	<b>Insight landing</b>

## Seasons on Mars

	MY34	MY35	MY36
Start of Northern Spring / L <sub>s</sub> 0	5/05/2017	3/23/2019	2/07/2021
Start of Northern Summer / L <sub>s</sub> 90	11/20/2017	10/08/2019	8/25/2021
Start of Northern Autumn / L <sub>s</sub> 180	5/22/2018	4/08/2020	2/24/2022
Start of Northern Winter / L <sub>s</sub> 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	4/10/20
Rosh Hashanah	9/21/2017	9/10/2018	9/30/2019	9/19/20
Yom Kippur	9/30/2017	9/19/2018	10/09/2019	9/28/20
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/09/2017	10/08/2018	10/14/2019	10/12/20
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/23/2017	11/22/2018	11/28/2019	11/26/20
Christmas Day	12/25/2017	12/25/2018	12/25/2019	12/25/20

## Editors

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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](mailto: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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