

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

October 2017

## Mars Science News

### ***The 35<sup>th</sup> MEPAG Meeting was held virtually on September 25<sup>th</sup>.***

The final agenda with presentations and a meeting summary are available on the MEPAG website at :

<https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m35>.

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### ***MEPAG Face-to-Face Meeting — Save the Dates:***

The next MEPAG face-to-face meeting will be held in the Washington DC area on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 2018. We are currently reviewing options for a suitable meeting location.

Within our three-day format, a one-day workshop has been proposed, with ½-day devoted to discussing other possible science mission objectives on which progress could be made by missions in the next decade (2023-2032). For the latter ½-day, we may provide poster space and ~1-minute introductions at the meeting, to be followed by a discussion period. Please send comments about this proposal to [mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov) by November 15, 2017. Stay tuned for a final announcement in an upcoming newsletter.

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### ***Soliciting Indications of Interest to serve on MEPAG Executive and Goals Committees:***

MEPAG is soliciting indications of interest for membership on the Executive Committee (2 at-large positions are currently open), and for possible membership on the Goals Committee (positions which may open in the coming year).

Membership of the Executive and Goals Committees are solicited from the MEPAG community and determined by the MEPAG Chair and current Executive Committee members. Terms of service are typically 2-3 years, depending on MEPAG tasks and desire for overlapping terms. Participation in the Executive Committee includes a monthly telcon, participation in MEPAG community meetings, reviews of MEPAG reports, and related activities. Goals Committee activity is dependent upon the pace of updates to the Goals Document. Related travel is supported (except for civil servants); time is not.

To indicate interest, please click [here](#) and fill out the form, providing your name, host institution, brief summary of Mars experience/expertise, and brief statement of interest and suitability for committee membership. Please encourage those whom you believe to be good candidates to submit their indication of interest. Committee membership is open to qualified U.S. and international MEPAG participants. Representation of the diverse membership of the Mars science community, including women and minorities, is important; expressions of interest from all career levels and disciplines are encouraged.

Please submit your Indication of Interest by December 15, 2017. The plan is to fill the current openings by January, 2018. For more information about MEPAG and its current Committee membership, please see <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/about.cfm>. Please send any questions to [mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov). Interested community members not selected in this round may be considered as future openings occur.

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### ***Ninth International Mars Conference Rescheduled to July 22-26, 2019***

To avoid scheduling conflicts with other important meetings, the Ninth International Conference on Mars, previously scheduled for July 15–19, 2019, has been rescheduled to July 22–26, 2019. In addition to discussing science results from past and active robotic missions, telescopic studies, laboratory analyses of SNC meteorites, terrestrial analog studies, and numerical models, we anticipate new geophysical understanding gained from the InSight mission, as well as a review of objectives for several spacecraft scheduled for launch in 2020 from public, private, and international institutions.

If you have questions, please contact either Kira Honnoll ([khonnoll@hou.usra.edu](mailto:khonnoll@hou.usra.edu)) or James Ashley ([james.w.ashley@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:james.w.ashley@jpl.nasa.gov)).

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

Due	Project
November 1	<b>JWST Solar System Workshop</b> , Abstract Due, Registration Deadline
November 3	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> , Early Registration Deadline
November 10	<b>Diversis Mundi (OPS-III): The Solar System in an Exoplanetary Context</b> , Abstract Due
November 15	<b>Water During Planet Formation and Evolution</b> , Registration Deadline
November 15	<b>Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics</b> , Abstract Due
January 9, 2018	<b>49th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> , Abstract Due

## 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.

### Fourth Quarter, 2017



	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>
	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 Solary System Observations with JWST</b> <a href="#">Planning Solary 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, MD, 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>
	November 26-Dec 1, 2017 Coyhaique, Chile	<b>Astrobiology 2017</b> NCTS# 28382-18 <a href="http://astrobiology2017.org/">http://astrobiology2017.org/</a>
<b>New!</b>	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 10-12, 2017 Moffett Field, CA, USA	<b>Lunar Science for Landed Missions Workshop</b> NCTS# 31661-18 <a href="https://lunar-landing.arc.nasa.gov/">https://lunar-landing.arc.nasa.gov/</a>
	December 11-15, 2017 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>JWST Proposal and Planning Workshop</b> <a href="#">JWST Proposal and Planning Workshop</a>
	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>	January 14-19, 2017 Galveston, TX USA	<b>The Prebiotic Milieu Building the Evolution of Early Life</b> <a href="https://www.grc.org/origins-of-life-conference/2018/">https://www.grc.org/origins-of-life-conference/2018/</a>
	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>
	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>
<b>New!</b>	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>
<b>New!</b>	March 18, 2018 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>Planetary Science Deep Space SmallSat Studies</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/smallsat2018/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/smallsat2018/</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>
	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

<b>New!</b>	April 3-5, 2017 Washington, DC, USA	<b>MEPAG Face-to-Face Meeting</b>
	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>
	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> , NCTS# 28518-18 <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>
<b>New!</b>	June 11-15, 2018 Boulder, CO, USA	<b>15th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-15)</b> <a href="https://www.colorado.edu/event/ippw2018/">https://www.colorado.edu/event/ippw2018/</a>


### Second Quarter, 2018

	June 18-22, 2018 Lakewood, CO, USA	<b>Amazonian Climate Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/amazonian2018/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/amazonian2018/</a>
<b>New!</b>	June 24-29, 2018 Rotorua, New Zealand	<b>Astrobiology Australasia Meeting</b> <a href="#">Astrobiology Australasia Meeting</a>

### Third Quarter, 2018

<b>New!</b>	July 2-9, 2018 Denham, Australia	<b>Astrobiology Grand Tour</b> <a href="#">Astrobiology Grand Tour</a>
	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>
<b>New!</b>	July 22-27, 2018 Moscow, Russia	<b>81st Annual Meeting of The Meteoritical Society</b>
	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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