

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

November 2017

Mars Science News

New Recent Discoveries Portal on MEPAG Website

The MEPAG website has been updated with a new list of recent discoveries for the martian system. The discoveries encompass a range of topics spanning martian history from the Noachian to present day, and feature habitability assessment, atmospheric loss, surface volatile processes, dust behavior, and discussions of anomalous features (e.g. RSLs and methane detection). The list has been compiled from a survey of recent literature, press releases, and inputs from the Mars Exploration Program, Mars mission Project Scientists, and the MEPAG Goal and Executive Committee.

Each topic includes a short summary with one representative figure and associated key references. The new list is intended to be a useful reference for 1) outlining the current state of knowledge, 2) framing scientific hypotheses, 3) contributing content to proposals, briefings or research projects, and/or 4) improving educational presentations. The topics are not prioritized or intended to be exhaustive. We envision the maintenance of this site as an ongoing process, and welcome suggestions for additional subjects to expand upon those seen here:

https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/rdp/Recent_Discoveries_v10.pdf

FYI Regarding Forecasting for Microsymposia Preceding LPSC

For those in the community planning to attend one or more of the one-day microsymposia preceding the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in March, please note that they have separate NCTS numbers from that of the main conference (see calendar). This is important to know for those working within the NASA conference attendance system.

Reminder: 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). **The MEPAG Executive Committee thanks those community members who have already responded and reminds others that this solicitation will remain open until December 15, 2017.**

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 telecon, 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. Interested community members not selected in this round may be considered as future openings occur.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
November 22	Women in Planetary Science and Exploration , Abstract deadline
November 24	Diversis Mundi (OPS-III): The Solar System in an Exoplanetary Context , Abstract Deadline
December 1	JWST Solar System Workshop , Abstract Deadline, Registration Deadline
December 10	Franco-Australian Astrobiology and Exoplanet School and Workshop , Registration Deadline
December 15	Indication of Interest to serve on MEPAG Executive and Goals Committees
January 9, 2018	49th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference , Abstract Deadline
January 9	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) , Abstract Deadline
January 19	Asia Oceania Geosciences Society , Abstract Deadline
January 20	Diversis Mundi (OPS-III): The Solar System in an Exoplanetary Context , Registration Deadline
February 9	COSPAR 2018 , Abstract Deadline
February 28	9th Workshop on Catastrophic Disruption in the Solar System (CD9) , Abstract Deadline, Early 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).
- 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

	November 26-Dec 1, 2017 Coyhaique, Chile	Astrobiology 2017 NCTS# 28382-18 http://astrobiology2017.org/
	December 4-8, 2017 Noordwijk, Netherlands	51st ESLAB Symposium: Extreme Habitable Worlds NCTS# 30869-18 http://esaconferencebureau.com/2017-events/eslab2017
	December 10-12, 2017 Moffett Field, CA, USA	Lunar Science for Landed Missions Workshop NCTS# 31661-18 https://lunar-landing.arc.nasa.gov/
	December 11-15, 2017 Pasadena, CA, USA	JWST Proposal and Planning Workshop JWST Proposal and Planning Workshop
	December 11-15, 2017 New Orleans, LA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting NCTS# 28919-18 https://fallmeeting.agu.org/2017/
New!	December 16-20, 2017 Canberra, Australia	Franco-Australian Astrobiology and Exoplanet School and Workshop http://faabexo.anu.edu.au/

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops 2018

First Quarter 2018

New!	January 9-11, 2018 Tokyo, Japan	Building Bridges from Earth to Life: From Chemical Mechanism to Ancient Biology https://elsi6sympo.com/
	January 14-19, 2018 Galveston, TX USA	The Prebiotic Milieu Building the Evolution of Early Life https://www.grc.org/origins-of-life-conference/2018/
	February 12-16, 2018 Zurich, Switzerland	Water During Planet Formation and Evolution https://waterzurich.github.io/
New!	February 17-18, 2018 Ontario, Canada	Women in Planetary Science and Exploration NCTS# 31744-18 http://wpse2018.ca/
	February 27-28, 2018 Madrid, Spain	From Mars Express to Exomars http://upwards.iaa.es/content/mars-express-exomars
	February 27-28m 2018 Houston, TX, USA	2nd COSPAR Workshop https://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/COSPARHumans2018
	March 3-10, 2018 Big Sky, Montana, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference NCTS#30394-18 http://www.aeroconf.org/
	March 5-9, 2018 Santiago, Chile	Diversis Mundi (OPS-III): The Solar System in an Exoplanetary Context http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2018/ops2018.html
	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 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

Second Quarter, 2018

	April 3-5, 2018 Washington, DC, USA	MEPAG Face-to-Face Meeting
	April 13-16, 2018 Reno, NV, USA	SoCIA 2018: Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology http://spaceref.com/calendar/calendar.html?pid=9490
	April 24-26, 2018 St. Louis, MO, USA	Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics https://psida.rsl.wustl.edu/
Updated!	April 25-27, 2018 Berlin, Germany	2nd International Mars Sample Return Conference
New!	April 29-30, 2018 Paris, France	iCubeSat 2018 - The 7th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop https://icubesat.org/
	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

Second Quarter, 2018

	May 7-11, 2018 San Gabriel Valley, CA, USA	Differentiation: Building the Internal Architecture of Planets , NCTS# 28518-18 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/differentiation2018/
	May 14-17, 2018 Toulouse, France	2018 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
New!	June 3-8, 2018 Honolulu, Hawaii, 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 11-15, 2018 Boulder, CO, USA	15th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-15) https://www.colorado.edu/event/ippw2018/
	June 18-22, 2018 Lakewood, CO, USA	Amazonian Climate Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/amazonian2018/
	June 24-29, 2018 Rotorua, New Zealand	Astrobiology Australasia Meeting Astrobiology Australasia Meeting

Third Quarter, 2018

	July 1-9, 2018 Denham, Australia	Astrobiology Grand Tour Astrobiology Grand Tour
	July 14-22, 2018 Pasadena, CA	COSPAR 2018 NCTS# 28500-18 https://www.cospar-assembly.org/
	July 22-27, 2018 Moscow, Russia	81st Annual Meeting of The Meteoritical Society
New!	August 7-9, 2018 Laurel, MD, USA	Lunar Polar Volatiles https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarvolatiles2018/
	September 11-14, 2018 Niseko, Japan	International Venus Conference 2018 https://www.cps-jp.org/~akatsuki/venus2018/
	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
	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

New!	October 1-3, 2018 Houston, TX, USA	Late Mars Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/latemars2018/
	November 4-7, 2018 Indianapolis, IN, USA	2018 GSA Annual Meeting https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2018.aspx
	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	4/10/20
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

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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>

- 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: mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov (also linked on the MEPAG website <http://mepag.nasa.gov/>, under Updates).