

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

Issue: February 2009

MEPAG Meeting #20: March 3-4, 2009 in Arlington, VA..

Mars Science News

News from the MEPAG Chair.

The PSS met on January 9th at NASA Headquarters to consider the implications of the slip of the launch of MSL to the 2011 opportunity and the associated cost increase. Most of the costs to complete MSL will be borne by the Mars Program and this affects the opportunities in 2016 and 2018 as well as technology development over this time period. MAVEN and the R&A programs will be largely unaffected. The PSS endorsed the high science value of the mission and expressed priorities for covering these costs. The full report of the PSS can be read through the following link:

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/pss/jan92009/meetingReport.pdf>

MEPAG is in the process of assessing the impacts of the MSL launch slip to all aspects of the Mars Exploration Program. We are putting in place a number of activities to position the MEP during this period, but also to contribute to the Decadal Survey for Planetary Science that is just beginning. A summary of activities includes:

The implications of the MSL slip on MEP architectures. A new revision is pending and will involve international collaboration. The recommended architecture will be dependent on the NASA budget and the cost of the MSL slip.

Mid-rover SAG – This is to refine the science goals of a potential rover in the program architecture in the 2018 time frame.

Decadal survey themes – Requested inputs to the Decadal Survey process suggesting potential cross-cutting themes.

Goal IV revision – This activity will be kicked off with the release of DRA 5.0 (the latest Exploration Program Design Reference Architecture).

There will be reporting on all these activities at the MEPAG meeting on March 3-4 in Rosslyn, VA. I look forward to your attendance and valued input to help move the MEP forward.

Jack Mustard
MEPAG Chair

MEPAG #20 is March 3-4 in Arlington, Virginia.

We have a block of 65 sleeping rooms reserved for arrival on March 2 and departing as late as March 4 at the government rate of \$209.00 plus 10.25% tax. The Block code is "MEP." If you have any problems, mention the MEPAG meeting. The cutoff date for the room block is February 3. These rooms are reserved on a first come first served basis.

Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark, 1900 North Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA 22209.
Phone: (703) 807-2000

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>First Quarter, 2009</i>		
	February 25, 2009 Houston, Texas	VEXAG (Venus Exploration Analysis Group) Meeting #5 In conjunction with Workshop on Venus Geochemistry: Progress, Prospects, and New Missions, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas, contact Ellen Stofan (ellen@proxemy.com)
	DATE CHANGE February 26-27, 2009 Houston, Texas	Venus Geochemistry: Progress, Prospects, and New Missions Gilruth Center, JSC http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/venus2009/
	March 3-4, 2009 Arlington, Virginia	MEPAG (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group) Meeting #20
	March 7-14, 2009 Big Sky, Montana	2009 IEEE Aerospace Conference http://www.aeroconf.org/
	March 9-10, 2009 DC area	OPAG meeting http://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/
	March 21-22, 2009 The Woodlands, Texas	Volcanism on the Moon and Mercury: A New Paradigm in Comparative Planetology http://www.planetary.brown.edu/html_pages/micro49.htm

	<p>March 22, 2009 The Woodlands, Texas</p>	<p>MRO/CRISM Data Users' Workshop: High resolution hyperspectral images from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars (CRISM) have been released to the PDS with a variety of ancillary data that support map projection, correction of surface measurements for photometric and atmospheric effects, and basic processing of the data. In addition, global mapping data at a reduced spatial and spectral resolution have been released in map projected form as nearly 2000 tiles each covering about 0.05% of Mars' surface. The CRISM team has developed and tested a number of specialized tools that plug in to ITT Visual Information Systems' ENVI software package. These will be publicly available in early 2009. At this workshop CRISM team members will review basic CRISM data products and their uses, acquaint data users with online tools to search the data set, and provide a tutorial of how to use custom software available under ENVI. MRO/CRISM Data Users' Workshop information and registration: http://crism.jhuapl.edu/CRISM_workshop_2009/ Contacts: Scott Murchie (Scott.Murchie@jhuapl.edu) or Frank Seelos (Frank.Seelos@jhuapl.edu)</p>
	<p>March 23-27, 2009 The Woodlands, Texas</p>	<p>40th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC 2009) Abstract deadline January 8, 2009. Note new location; The Woodlands, TX http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2009/</p>
<p><i>Second Quarter, 2009</i></p>		
	<p>April 2-4, 2009 Mainz, Germany</p>	<p>Conference on Micro-Raman Spectroscopy and Luminescence Studies in the Earth and Planetary Sciences http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/spectroscopy2009/</p>
	<p>March 4, 2009 LMA</p>	<p>Next 2001 Mars Odyssey PSG Meeting</p>
	<p>May 11-15, 2009 Noordwijk, THE NETHERLANDS</p>	<p>International Conference on Comparative Planetology: Venus-Earth-Mars at ESTEC Abstracts due March 2, 2009 Contact: Augustin Chicarro, Augustin.Chicarro@esa.int or Hakan Svedhem, Hakan.Svedhem@esa.int http://www.rssd.esa.int/eslab-2009/</p>
	<p>May 24-27, 2009 Toronto, Ontario, Canada</p>	<p>2009 AGU Joint Assembly: Geomagnetism and Paleomagnetism (GP) session GP-12 on "Planetary Magnetism". This session will provide a forum for presentation and discussion on new developments on studies of planetary magnetism and magnetic fields. Of particular interest are studies on Mars crustal magnetic anomalies, crater magnetism, magnetic field measurements of other planets and satellites and new data on Moon rocks, meteorites and magnetic minerals, which have implications for past internal fields, planetary evolution and early solar system magnetic fields. We welcome contributions coming from theory and analyses of direct observations, numerical simulations and experiments on planetary magnetic fields, crater magnetic anomalies and magnetic properties of materials. Abstract submissions are now open at the AGU web site http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja09/program/abstract_submissions.php Online abstract submission deadline is March 4, 2009, at 23:59 hrs Universal Time. Conveners: Jafar Arkani-Hamed (jafar@physics.utoronto.ca), Jaime Urrutia-Facugauchi (juf@geofisica.unam.mx), and Hernan Ugalde (ugaldeh@mcmaster.ca)</p>

	June 1-2, 2009 Houston, TX	Workshop on Modeling Martian Hydrous Environments http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/hydrous2009/
	June 13-14, 2009 Barcelona, Spain	Planetary Protection Short Course http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 14-20, 2009 Castellaneta M., Italy	XIV International Clay Conference Note special session on Clay Minerals in Extraterrestrial Environments will include a plenary lecture by Dr. Nick Tosca, "Extracting Aqueous Chemistry from Clay-Bearing Assemblages Formed on Ancient Mars." http://www.14icc.org/
	June 15-19, 2009 Barcelona, Spain	7th International Planetary Probe Workshop Abstract deadline March 1, 2009 http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 21-26, 2009 Davos, Switzerland	Goldschmidt™2009 - "Challenges to Our Volatile Planet" Note key theme areas of Mars interest: Theme 1: Nebular Processes, Planet Formation and Comparative Planetology Theme 2: Earth, The Early Years: Building a Habitable Planet Theme 16: Life at the Edge: Extreme Environments http://www.goldschmidt2009.org
	June 22-24, 2009 ESAC, Villafranca del Castillo, Spain	Mars Express Science Team Meeting (SWT/SOWG/DAWG) Contact Agustin Chicarro (Agustin.Chicarro@esa.int) or Olivier Witasse (owitasse@rssd.esa.int)
<i>Third Quarter, 2009</i>		
	July 6-11, 2009 Melbourne, Australia	7th International Conference on Geomorphology Ancient Landscapes – Modern Perspectives Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre There will be dedicated sessions on Planetary Geomorphology and a field trip to examine analog landscapes in South Australia. http://www.geomorphology2009.com/ (Submitted by Mary Bourke, Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, Arizona)
	July 13–18, 2009 Nancy, FRANCE	72nd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Marc Chaussidon, Guy Libourel or Bernard Marty http://www.metsoc2009.org/
	Late July, 2009 Providence, Rhode Island	MEPAG #21 meeting
	July 21-24, 2009 Seattle, Washington	3rd International Workshop on Mars Polar Energy Balance and the CO2 Cycle http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/mpeg2009/
	August 11-15, 2009 Singapore	6th Annual General Meeting of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society 16 Sessions in Planetary Sciences covering various topics that include interiors, oceans, surfaces, atmospheres, ionospheres, magnetospheres of planets, satellites, comets, minor bodies..... Session details at: http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2009/public.asp?page=mars/confSessionList.asp Conference: http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2009/ Abstract deadline is March 15, 2009

	August 2009 Grenoble, France	IEEE GRSS Workshop on Hyperspectral Image and Signal Processing Deadline for full paper submission is March 31, 2009 http://www.ieee-whispers.com/
	September 13-18, 2009 Potsdam, Germany	European Planetary Science Congress http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc2009/information/index.html
	September 14-18, 2009 Taos, New Mexico	Mars Sedimentology/Stratigraphy
	September 20-23, 2009 Alghero, Sardinia, Italy	International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) Meeting Session T7: Sedimentology and Stratigraphy in the inner and Outer Solar System Fieldtrip FT5: Tunisian desert: a perfect place to simulate landing on Mars http://www.ias2009.com/
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2009</i>		
	October 4–9, 2009 San Juan, Puerto Rico	41st Annual Meeting DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 12-16, 2009 Daejeon, South Korea	60th International Astronautical Congress http://www.iac2009.kr/
	October 18–21, 2009 Portland, Oregon	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	November 25-27, 2009 ESRIN, Frascati, Italy,	Methane Workshop Contact Victorio Formanisano
	December 14–18, 2009 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2010</i>		
	February 27-28, 2010 Monrovia, CA	MEPAG #22
	March 2010 Houston, Texas	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	UPDATE Spring 2010	Fourth MSL Landing Site workshop
	June 8-12, 2010 Oslo, Norway	International Polar Year Oslo Science Conference http://www.ipy-osc.no/

	July 18–25, 2010 Bremen, GERMANY	38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly Abstract Deadline: Mid-February 2010 Topics: - SC B: The Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System - SC C: The Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets Including Reference Atmospheres - SC D: Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Planetary Magnetospheres - SC F : Astrobiology and Space Science, Including Habitability on Mars : Past, Present & Future - Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP) Contact: cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr http://www.cospar2010.org/ or http://www.cospar-assembly.org
	July 25 or August 1, 2010 Toronto, Ontario CANADA	73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Dr. G. Srinivasan http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2010	Fifth MSL Landing Site workshop
	October 18-22, 2010 Madison, WI	42nd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 31– November 3, 2010 Denver, Colorado	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2011</i>		
	July 2011 Pasadena, California	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology
	August 2011 Greenwich ENGLAND, UK	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2011 Nice, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, Minnesota	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, CA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012</i>		
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Trevor Ireland http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	The 34th International Geological Congress http://www.33iqc.org/

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/ meetings:

Rosh Hashanah	9/19/2009	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012	9/5/2013
Yom Kippur	9/28/2009	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012	9/14/2013
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Good Friday	4/10/2009	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012	3/29/2013
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/26/2009	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012	11/28/2013
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/12/2009	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012	10/14/2013

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.