

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

March 2015

Mars Science News

Second Landing Site Workshop for the Mars 2020 Rover — now a “conference”

August 4-6, 2015

Pasadena, CA (venue TBD)

This workshop will focus on further evaluation of candidate sites introduced at the first workshop (May 2014) as well as new candidate sites. The candidate landing sites emerging from this workshop will then be considered in more detail by the 2020 Project, Mars Program, and the Science Community. New sites may be proposed and discussed at the workshop, with the expectation that such new sites will be based in part on discoveries related to new data from MRO. Future workshops (beyond 2015) would further narrow the list of sites under consideration to a recommended landing site zone and (eventually) precise landing ellipse. John Grant and Matt Golombek, Co-Chairs of the Mars Landing Site Steering Committee, encourage all members of the scientific community to participate in this activity, as robust input from the science community is critical to identifying the optimal landing site for the 2020 rover.

Note: *This workshop has been designated a conference, and thus must be forecasted by NASA employees and contractors.* Information about forecasting will be distributed in the near-future via the Mars 2020 landing site website: <http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov> The workshop announcement and results from the first workshop are available on the website .

Mars Student Travel Grants available for upcoming meetings

Student travel grants are available for two workshops in May: (1) the [Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces](#) (May 19-22 in Laurel, MD; due March 5) and (2) the [Fourth International Planetary Dunes Workshop](#) (2) (May 19-22 in Boise, ID; due March 5). These opportunities are open to undergraduate and graduate students with Mars-related research interests, who are US citizens or legal residents. Information and the applications are posted on the MEPAG site:

<http://mepag.nasa.gov/student.cfm?expand=student>. Questions should be directed to Serina Diniega: serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov.

Updates to MEPAG Directory

We are updating information contained within the MEPAG email directory. If your contact information/institution has changed in the last ~5 years/since you signed up for the MEPAG email list, please fill out the online form: <http://goo.gl/forms/WilmhPIM9V> (Also linked on MEPAG website, under Updates.)

Second Workshop on Potential Mars Returned Sample Science, pre-LPSC

The Woodlands, TX; Sunday, March 15

The Second Annual Workshop on Potential Mars Returned Sample Science will be held on Sunday March 15th as a peripheral meeting to LPSC, in The Woodlands conference room. This meeting will be an opportunity for scientists interested in the investigation of geological samples from Mars to 1) Stay up to date on current planning related to the possibility of returning samples from Mars, and 2) Discuss current issues and questions for which broad, multi-disciplinary input is needed. The first workshop in this series (2014) focused specifically on developing inputs to NASA's requirements for the Mars 2020 rover related to sample quality. The agenda this year will have a broader focus, including: final reporting on sample quality requirements, planning related to sample management if Mars samples are returned to Earth, sample-related technology planning (including advanced curation), and possibly sample-related planetary protection questions. Anyone wishing to indicate interest in attending or with questions about this workshop is encouraged to contact Dr. Lindsay Hays (Lindsay.E.Hays@jpl.nasa.gov).

User Workshop for Mars CHEMCAM/LIBS Data, at LPSC

The Woodlands, TX @ Marriott Waterway Conference Center, Indian Springs room; Wednesday, March 18, 6-8:30pm

ChemCam on Curiosity provides a large and varied geochemical dataset available for the planetary community including laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS), passive VIS reflectance spectra, and the highest resolution remote micro-images (RMI) from the rover. More than 200,000 spectra and over 3,000 images from ChemCam available at the Planetary Data System (PDS). More than 30 submitted papers have included results from this data. A LIBS instrument is also being developed for the Mars 2020 mission.

A 2-1/2-hour workshop will be held during the week of the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC) at the Marriott Waterway Conference Center in The Woodlands, TX for community members interested in using this dataset. In the workshop we will describe the LIBS technique as used on ChemCam and data processing for the levels 1 and 2 provided in the PDS, and will provide updates on the latest calibration data. The meeting will be at 6 pm Wednesday, March 18, in the Indian Springs conference room. The contact is Roger Wiens (rwiens@lanl.gov). The ChemCam data can be found at <http://pds-geosciences.wustl.edu/missions/msl/chemcam.htm>. Presentation materials will be posted on PDS.

MAVEN Data Users Workshop

Boulder, CO @ LASP; week of June 22 (exact date TBD)

The first delivery of MAVEN data to PDS is planned for mid-May. The MAVEN team will host a one-day "data users' workshop" to help new users become familiar with data access, data products, user tools; this will be held in conjunction with MAVEN's next science-team meeting. Those attending the workshop, or already using MAVEN data, can participate in the science team meeting, allowing a broader science return and more effective interaction with the team on understanding and interpreting data.

Participation in the users' workshop or in the team meeting is *by application only* (a consequence of conference travel rules): send email with your justification for participating to bruce.jakosky@lasp.colorado.edu. These are not open meetings - No drop-ins or those just wanting to hear MAVEN results.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
March 2, 2015	11th IAA Low-Cost Planetary Mission Conference, LCPM-11 Abstract deadline
March 4, 2015	Astrobiology Science Conference 2015 (Abscon) Abstract deadline
March 5, 2015	Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces Abstract deadline 4th International Planetary Dunes Workshop Abstract deadline
March 12, 2015	European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2015 Early registration deadline
March 16, 2015	Venus Science Priorities Workshop for Laboratory Measurements and Instrument Definition Early registration deadline
April 1, 2015	iCubeSat 2015: 4th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop Abstract deadline
April 2, 2015	Goldschmidt 2015 Abstract deadline
April 3, 2015	12th International Planetary Probe Workshop Abstract deadline
April 4, 2015	11th IAA Low-Cost Planetary Mission Conference, LCPM-11 Early registration deadline
April 9, 2015	Comparative Tectonics and Geodynamics of Venus, Earth, and Rocky Exoplanets , Early registration deadline
April 13, 2015	2nd annual NASA Exploration Science Forum (ESF) , Abstract deadline
April 22, 2015	4th International Planetary Dunes Workshop , Early registration deadline
April 24, 2015	2nd International Congress on Stratigraphy , Abstract deadline
May 5, 2015	12th International Planetary Probe Workshop , Early registration deadline Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces , Registration deadline
May 12, 2015	Japanese Geoscience Union (JpGU) , Early registration deadline
May 14, 2015	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society , Abstract deadline
May 29, 2015	2nd International Congress on Stratigraphy , Early registration deadline
May 31, 2015	2nd Symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2015): Water and Life in the Universe , Abstract deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

First Quarter, 2015		
	March 2-5, 2015 Santiago, CHILE	Ground and space observatories: a joint venture to planetary science http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2015/Planets2015.html
	March 7-14, 2015 Big Sky, MT, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference http://www.aeroconf.org/
	March 11-12, 2015 Location TBA	Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting For more information, contact Håkan Svedhem: hsvedhem@esa.int
	March 16-20, 2015 The Woodlands, TX, USA	46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2015/
New!	March 22-27, 2015 Porto, PORTUGAL	Habitability in the Universe: From the Early Earth to Exoplanets http://www.iaastro.pt/research/conferences/life-origins2015/
	March 24-26, 2015 Moffett Field, CA, USA	Planetary Protection Knowledge Gaps for Human Extraterr. Missions Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/ppw2015/
	March 31-April 2, 2015 Washington DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)

Second Quarter, 2015

	April 7-8 2015 Hampton, VA, USA	Venus Science Priorities Workshop for Laboratory Measurements and Instrument Definition http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/venustech2015/
	April 9, 2015 Hampton, VA, USA	12th Meeting of the Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/
	April 12-17, 2015 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2015 http://www.egu2015.eu/home.html
	April 28-29, 2015 Wachtberg, GERMANY	5th PCL Focus Days 2015 http://workshops.fhr.fraunhofer.de/pclfocusdays/
	May 4-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	Comparative Tectonics and Geodynamics of Venus, Earth, and Rocky Exoplanets http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/geodyn2015/
	May 5-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	Improving Space Operations Workshop https://info.aiaa.org/tac/SMG/SOSTC/Lists/Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=53&Source=https%3A%2F%2Finfo%2Eaiaa%2Eorg%2Ftac%2FSMG%2FSOSTC%2Fdefault%2Easpx
	May 5-7, 2015 Washington, DC, USA	Humans to Mars Summit http://h2m.exploremars.org/
	May 19-22, 2015 Boise, ID, USA	4th International Planetary Dunes Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2015/
	May 19-22, 2015 Laurel, MD, USA	Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/craterstats2015/
	May 24-28, 2015 Chiba, JAPAN	Japanese Geoscience Union (JpGU) http://www.jpгу.org/meeting_e/
	May 26-27, 2015 London, UK	iCubeSat 2015: 4th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop http://iCubeSat.org
	June 1-4, 2015 Kazan, RUSSIA	Second IAPS Scientific Assembly: Observation and Understanding of the Moon, moons & Planets http://kpfu.ru/astrogeokazan-iaps-2015.html
	June 9-11, 2015 Berlin, GERMANY	11th IAA Low-Cost Planetary Mission Conference (LCPM-11) http://www.dlr.de/LCPM11
	June 15-19, 2015 Cologne, GERMANY	12th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-12) http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 15-19, 2015 Chicago, IL, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference 2015 (Abscon) http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscon2015/

Third Quarter, 2015

New!	July 19-23, 2015 Graz, AUSTRIA	2nd International Congress on Stratigraphy http://strati2015.uni-graz.at/ Session S 09: Planetary Stratigraphy
	July 21-23, 2015 Moffett Field, CA, USA	2nd annual NASA Exploration Science Forum (ESF) http://sservi.nasa.gov/NESF2015/
	July 27-31, 2015 Berkeley, CA, USA	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society http://metsoc2015.ssl.berkeley.edu/

Third Quarter, 2015—con't

	August 4-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	2nd Landing Site Workshop for the Mars 2020 Rover http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov/
	August 16-21, 2015 Prague, CZ	Goldschmidt 2015 http://goldschmidt.info/2015/
	September 16-17, 2015 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	September 27-October 2, 2015 Nantes, FRANCE	European Planetary Science Congress http://www.epsc2015.eu/home.html

Fourth Quarter, 2015

	November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
	November 8-13, 2015 National Harbor, MD, USA	47th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS 2015) http://dps.aas.org/meetings/current
	November 9-13, 2015 Foz do Iguacu, BRAZIL	2nd Symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2015): Water and Life in the Universe
	December 14-18, 2015 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting

2016

	January 7, 2016	20-Day ExoMars Launch Period Opens
	March 4, 2016	20-Day Insight Launch Window Opens
	March 29-31, 2016 Washington DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	April 4-8, 2016 Oxford, UK	International Venus Conference http://venus2016.uk/
	July 30-August 7, 2016 Istanbul, TURKEY	41st Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2016) and Associated Events http://www.cospar-assembly.org
	August 7-12, 2016 Berlin, GERMANY	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society
	September 14-15, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	September 28, 2016	Insight Arrival at Mars
	October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting
	October 19, 2016	ExoMars 2016 (TGO and EDM) Arrival at Mars

Seasons on Mars

	MY33	MY34	MY35
Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0	6/18/2015	5/05/2017	3/23/2019
Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90	1/03/2016	11/20/2017	10/08/2019
Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180	7/04/2016	5/22/2018	4/08/2020
Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270	11/28/2016	10/16/2018	9/02/2020

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Good Friday	4/3/2015	3/25/2016	4/14/2017	3/30/2018
Rosh Hashanah	9/14/2015	9/16/2016	9/20/2017	9/10/2018
Yom Kippur	9/23/2015	9/25/2016	9/29/2017	9/19/2018
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/12/2015	10/8/2016	10/9/2017	10/8/2018
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/26/2015	11/22/2016	11/23/2017	11/22/2018
Christmas Day	12/25/2015	12/25/2016	12/25/2017	12/25/2018

Editors

Carla de la Paz	Paz@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-3160
Serina Diniega	Serina.Diniega@jpl.nasa.gov	818-393-1487
David Beaty	David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-7968

Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to:

Carla de la Paz at paz@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-354-3160.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at:

<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: <http://goo.gl/forms/WilmhPI M9V> (also linked on MEPAG website, under Updates).