

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

May 2015

Mars Science News

Second Landing Site Workshop for the Mars 2020 Rover

August 4-6, 2015

DoubleTree, Monrovia, CA

The Second Landing Site Workshop for the Mars 2020 Rover will be held August 4-6, 2015 at the [DoubleTree by Hilton in Monrovia, CA](#). 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. 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.

A room block has been made available at GSA rate (\$138/night + taxes and fees) and that includes full-American breakfast buffet, for the duration of the meeting and 2 days before and after. To make a reservation, call the hotel direct at 626-357-1900 or toll-free at 877-361-5743, and mention the group name "Mars 2020 Landing Site Workshop". Alternatively, make a reservation via the personalized group web page: <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/L/LAXMVDT-MLW-20150801/index.jhtml>. This rate will expire July 21, 2015. Additional and updated workshop information will be posted on the Mars 2020 landing site website: <http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov>. The results from the first workshop are also available on the website. Note: *This workshop has been designated a conference (NCTS 22464-15), and thus must be forecasted by NASA employees and contractors.*

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
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 6, 2015	European Planetary Science Congress 2015 Abstract deadline (extended)
May 12, 2015	Japanese Geoscience Union (JpGU) Early registration deadline
May 14, 2015	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society Abstract deadline
May 15, 2015	Comparative Climates of Terrestrial Planets II Abstract deadline (extended)
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
June 16, 2015	Goldschmidt 2015 Early registration deadline
June 29, 2015	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society Early registration deadline
July 1, 2015	IEEE Aerospace Conference Abstract deadline
July 9, 2015	The Bridging the Gap III: Impact Cratering in Nature, Experiments and Modeling Abstract deadline
July 31, 2015	2nd Symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2015) Early registration deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Second Quarter, 2015

	May 4-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	Comparative Tectonics and Geodynamics of Venus, Earth, and Rocky Exoplanets http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/geodyn2015/ This meeting will be broadcast on webex. Please e-mail Timothy.M.Brice@jpl.nasa.gov to obtain instructions.
	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.aiaa.org%2Eorg%2Ftac%2FSMG%2FSOSTC%2Fdefault%2Easpx
	May 5-7, 2015 Washington, DC, USA	Humans to Mars Summit http://h2m.exploremars.org/
	May 12-13, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	AAS Astronauts and Robots: Partners in Space Science and Exploration http://www.astronautical.org/events/astronauts-robots
	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/
New!	June 29-July 1, 2015 Washington, DC, USA	13th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/ If you are a NASA or JPL employee (or on-site contractor) and planning to attend SBAG Meeting #13, you are required to forecast (NCTS code #22158-15).

Third Quarter, 2015

	July 19-23, 2015 Graz, AUSTRIA	2nd International Congress on Stratigraphy http://strati2015.uni-graz.at/
	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—cont.

	August 4-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	2nd Landing Site Workshop for the Mars 2020 Rover http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov/
	August 10-12, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	27th Annual Planetary Science Summer School http://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov
	August 12-14, 2015 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	6th Planetary Crater Consortium www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/
	August 16-21, 2015 Prague, CZ	Goldschmidt 2015 http://goldschmidt.info/2015/
	September 8-11, 2015 Moffett Field, CA, USA	Comparative Climates of Terrestrial Planets II: Understanding how climate systems work http://cctp2.arc.nasa.gov/ If you are a NASA or JPL employee (or on-site contractor) and planning to attend this confer-
	September 16-17, 2015 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	September 21-26, 2015 Freiberg, GERMANY	The Bridging the Gap III: Impact Cratering in Nature, Experiments and Modeling http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/gap2015/
	September 27-October 2, 2015 Nantes, FRANCE	European Planetary Science Congress http://www.epsc2015.eu/home.html

Fourth Quarter, 2015

	October 20-23, 2015 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	2nd International Planetary Caves Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/2ndcaves2015/
New!	October 27-29, 2015 Washington DC, USA	13th Meeting of the Venus Exploration Analysis Group http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/upcoming/ If you are a NASA or JPL employee (or on-site contractor) and planning to attend VEXAG Meeting #13, you are required to forecast (NCTS code #22676-16).
	November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2015/home
	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
New!	March 5-12, 2016 Big Sky, MT, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference http://www.aeroconf.org/
	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
	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

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

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

<http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>

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