

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

October 2015

## Mars Science News

### **Mars Critical Data Products Program, round X - RFP posted for Mars 2020 Landing Site Characterization**

The Mars Exploration Program has issued, in August 2015, a Request for Proposal for round X of the Mars Critical Data Products program (<http://mepag.nasa.gov/cdp.cfm>). This RFP provides support for landing site surface and atmosphere characterization for the Mars 2020 rover mission. The intent is to convert mission data and numerical simulations into products focused on specific landing site targets (to be provided by the program) that will be useful for reducing the risk to the Mars 2020 rover mission. Requested data products are for (1) Radar Reflectivity, (2) Surface Thermophysical Properties, (3) Surface Pressure Predictions, and (4) Dust Events during Mars 2020 Entry Descent and Landing (EDL).

Proposals are due **Wednesday, October 14, 2015**. Details of this RFP are posted at: <https://acquisition.jpl.nasa.gov/rfp/NT-2692-081715/default.htm> or <https://acquisition.jpl.nasa.gov/bizops/>

### **Critical Data Products Program Website/Archive: Updated and Expanded**

<http://mepag.nasa.gov/cdp.cfm>

The Critical Data Products (CDP) program supports the development of tools, techniques, and data that assist planning, implementation and operation of future Mars missions and that are critical to mission success and are not fundable in a timely manner through R&A. The CDP website has been updated and now contains links to products generated by awardees due to support of this program, as well as the list of awardees. We hope that this updated archive website proves useful to the community. If you have comments or corrections, please contact Dr. Serina Diniega ([serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov)).

### **6th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration - Request for Indication of Interest**

September 5-9, 2016

Reykjavik, Iceland

The Sixth International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration is designed to pull together the current state of Mars polar research from many fields, including geology, atmospheric, and climate science. The primary aim is to focus on advancements since the 5th Conference. Topics of interest will include terrestrial analogs and current and future missions to investigate the martian poles. Two field trips, one prior and one mid-conference, will highlight the beauty of Iceland and her relevance to martian analogs. We will also synthesize outstanding questions and developments in a publication dedicated to the results of this conference. For more information: <http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2016/>

As this conference will be held outside of the US, we encourage interested US scientists (especially civil servants and anyone else needing to forecast their conference travel) to **submit an Indication of Interest ASAP**. This will aid organizers in their preparations and paperwork, and will add you to the mailing list to receive reminders and other information about this conference.

## SSERVI "Planetary Evolution: Phobos and Deimos" lecture series

Online, Mondays at 3-4:30pm ET, September 14-December 7

NASA's Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI) announces the "Planetary Evolution: Phobos and Deimos" lecture series, organized by Dan Britt and Carle Pieters. Talks will be broadcast online every Monday at 3pm ET at: <https://connect.arc.nasa.gov/marsmoons/> (The same link will be used for each seminar, active 30 mins before each talk).

All talks will be archived at:

<http://sservi.nasa.gov/event/planetary-evolution-phobos-and-deimos/>

## Program has been posted for the Landing Site Workshop for Human Missions to the Surface of Mars

October 27-30, 2015

Houston, TX

The Final Announcement, including program and abstracts, has been posted. Authors will not receive notification letters, so they should check the author index to see where their presentation has been scheduled.

<http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/explorationzone2015/>.






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

Due	Project
October 2	<b>International Symposium on Moon 2020-2030</b> Abstract deadline
October 6	<b>Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group</b> , Registration deadline
October 14	<b>Request for Proposal for round X of the Mars Critical Data Products program</b> Proposal deadline
November 16	<b>International Symposium on Moon 2020-2030</b> Registration deadline
December 11	<b>Water in the Universe: From Clouds to Oceans</b> Abstract deadline



## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Fourth Quarter, 2015		
	October 6-9, 2015 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>European Astrobiology Network Association (EANA15)</b> <a href="http://www.eana-net.eu/Conferences/EANA2015.html">http://www.eana-net.eu/Conferences/EANA2015.html</a>
	October 20-22, 2015 Columbia, MD	<b>2015 Meeting of Lunar Exploration Analysis Group</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2015/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2015/</a> , NCTS# 23063-16
	October 20-23, 2015 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	<b>2nd International Planetary Caves Conference</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/2ndcaves2015/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/2ndcaves2015/</a> , NCTS# 23191-16
	October 20-22, 2015 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>Third ExoMars 2018 Landing Site Selection Workshop</b> <a href="http://exploration.esa.int/mars/55991-third-exomars-2018-landing-site-selection-workshop/">http://exploration.esa.int/mars/55991-third-exomars-2018-landing-site-selection-workshop/</a>

### Fourth Quarter, 2015—cont.

	October 20-22, 2015 Columbia, MD	<b>Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2015/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2015/</a> , NCTS# 23063-16
	October 27-29, 2015 Washington DC, USA	<b>13th Meeting of the Venus Exploration Analysis Group</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/upcoming/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/upcoming/</a> , NCTS# 22676-16 Please register in-advance at <a href="http://icpi.nasaprs.com/vexag">http://icpi.nasaprs.com/vexag</a>
	October 27-30, 2015 Houston, TX, USA	<b>First Landing Site/Exploration Zone Workshop for Human Missions to the Surface of Mars</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/explorationzone2015/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/explorationzone2015/</a> , NCTS# 23273-16
	October 28-29, 2015 Budapest, HUNGARY	<b>Missions to Habitable Worlds</b> <a href="http://life-origins2015.csfk.mta.hu/">http://life-origins2015.csfk.mta.hu/</a>
	November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b> <a href="http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2015/home">http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2015/home</a> , NCTS# 22522-16
	November 8-13, 2015 National Harbor, MD, USA	<b>47th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS 2015)</b> <a href="http://aas.org/meetings/dps47">http://aas.org/meetings/dps47</a> , NCTS# 22069-16
	November 9-13, 2015 Foz do Iguacu, BRAZIL	<b>2nd Symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2015): Water and Life in the Universe</b>
	December 9-10, 2015 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting</b>
	December 14-18, 2015 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2015/">http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2015/</a> , NCTS# 22185-16
	December 15-16, 2015 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>International Symposium on Moon 2020-2030: A New Era of Coordinated Human and Robotic Exploration</b> <a href="http://spaceflight.esa.int/humanrobotics/">http://spaceflight.esa.int/humanrobotics/</a>

### First Quarter, 2016

	January 7, 2016	<b>20-Day ExoMars Launch Period Opens</b>
<b>New!</b>	January 13, 2016	<b>Mars Odyssey 2001 PSG</b>
	March 4, 2016	<b>20-Day Insight Launch Window Opens</b>
	March 5-12, 2016 Big Sky, MT, USA	<b>IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> <a href="http://www.aeroconf.org/">http://www.aeroconf.org/</a> , NCTS# 22854-16
	March 21-25, 2016 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC)</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2016/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2016/</a> , NCTS# 23351-16
	March 29-31, 2016 Washington DC, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b>

## Second Quarter, 2016

	April 4-8, 2016 Oxford, UK	<b>International Venus Conference</b> <a href="http://venus2016.uk/">http://venus2016.uk/</a>
	April 11-15, 2016 Orlando, FL, USA	<b>ASCE Earth and Space 2016 Conference:</b> 15th Biennial ASCE International Conference on Engineering, Science, Construction, and Operations in Challenging Environments <a href="http://earthspaceconf.mst.edu/">http://earthspaceconf.mst.edu/</a> , NCTS# 23397-16 Of particular interest -- <i>Symposium 1: Granular Materials in Space Exploration</i> , <i>Symposium 2: Exploration and Utilization of Extraterrestrial Bodies</i>
	April 12-15, 2016 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>Water in the Universe: From Clouds to Oceans</b> <a href="http://www.congrexprojects.com/2016-events/16a06">http://www.congrexprojects.com/2016-events/16a06</a>
	May 24-25, 2016 Oxford, UK	<b>iCubeSat 2016, the 5th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop</b> <a href="http://icubesat.org/">http://icubesat.org/</a>
<b>New!</b>	June 20-21, 2016 London, UK	<b>Martian Gullies and their Earth Analogues</b> <a href="https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/martiangullies">https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/martiangullies</a>

## Third-Fourth Quarters, 2016

	July 30-August 7, 2016 Istanbul, TURKEY	<b>41st Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2016) and Associated Events</b> <a href="http://www.cospar-assembly.org">http://www.cospar-assembly.org</a>
	August 7-12, 2016 Berlin, GERMANY	<b>Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society</b>
	September 5-9, 2016 Reykjavik, ICELAND	<b>6th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2016/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2016/</a> , NCTS# 23841-16
	September 14-15, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b>
	September 28, 2016	<b>Insight Arrival at Mars</b>
	October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting</b>
	October 19, 2016	<b>ExoMars 2016 (TGO and EDM) Arrival at Mars</b>

### A note about “conferences” and this calendar of events

- Missing NCTS#s (and forecasting deadline, if anomalous) can be sent to Meredith Cosby ([Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov)).
- If no deadline is noted: it is usually 90days 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 if an event is a conference or not, or when the forecasting deadline may be, please consult with your NASA Center conference forecasting/travel unit.

## Seasons on Mars

	MY33	MY34	MY35
Start of Northern Spring / L <sub>s</sub> 0	6/18/2015	5/05/2017	3/23/2019
Start of Northern Summer / L <sub>s</sub> 90	1/03/2016	11/20/2017	10/08/2019
Start of Northern Autumn / L <sub>s</sub> 180	7/04/2016	5/22/2018	4/08/2020
Start of Northern Winter / L <sub>s</sub> 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

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

Meredith Cosby at

[Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov), 818-354-0226.

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

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

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