

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

November 2014

Mars Science News

Comet Siding Spring encounter: Science results

On October 19, 2014, comet C/2013 A1 (Siding Spring) swung within 139,500 km of Mars. All spacecraft remained in good health and operation throughout the encounter, and many good scientific observations were made. Many of the images from the Mars missions, other spacecraft, and Earth-based observers are posted as they become available. Additionally, presentations from the virtual workshops held August 11 and September 19 about the expected comet environment, mission risk mitigation plans, and planned observations by observers using Earth telescopes, Mars spacecrafts, or other spacecraft are also posted.

<http://cometcampaign.org/workshop>

<http://mars.nasa.gov/comets/sidingspring/>

Special Regions SAG Report and Organic Contamination Panel Report available on MEPAG website

The Special Regions SAG (SR-SAG2) Report was compiled by a relatively large committee with a mixture of expertise in Mars environmental conditions and in the limits to life as we know them on Earth. This report has been accepted by the journal *Astrobiology*. (If the report is circulated, please reference it as *in press, Astrobiology*.) The Organic Contamination Panel (OCP) Report contains an analysis of planning considerations related to the organic contamination of martian samples that may be collected by the Mars 2020 rover, recognizing that these samples may be subjected to comprehensive scientific evaluation in Earth laboratories in the future. This report has also been submitted to *Astrobiology*.

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

Planetary Protection Workshop—enrollment open

February 24-26, 2015 at the Kennedy Space Center, FL, USA

Interested parties are invited to participate in the upcoming course on Planetary Protection Policies and Practices, which is designed to familiarize current and future practitioners with NASA, ESA, and COSPAR planetary protection programs. The course provides an overview of applicable policies, practices and procedures necessary to implement a successful planetary protection program, emphasizing integration of managerial, administrative, and laboratory activities. It is supported by the NASA Planetary Protection Officer.

<http://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/course>

Enrollment limited to 14 participants, To apply, contact tasalb@msn.com.

MEPAG Mailing List Updates

The Mars Program Office has recently updated the MEPAG mailing list (the one this newsletter is sent out to), including adding Mars aficionados who have attended recent MEPAG- and Mars-focused events. If you wish to withdraw from this electronic mailing list, please send an email from your email account to mepag-removesignup@jpl.nasa.gov. To be added to this mailing list, please send an email from your email account to mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
October 31, 2014	Workshop on Modern Analytical Methods Applied to Earth & Planetary Sciences Early registration deadline Workshop on Volatiles in the Martian Interior Early registration deadline
November 13, 2014	Venus Science Priorities Workshop for Laboratory Measurements & Instrument Definition Abstract deadline
November 14, 2014	AGU Fall Meeting Pre-registration and hotel deadline
November 18, 2014	Workshop on the Early Solar System Bombardment III Abstract deadline
November 24, 2014	Ground and space observatories: a joint venture to planetary science Abstract deadline
December 1, 2014	IEEE Aerospace Conference Earlybird registration deadline 5th PCL Focus Days Abstract deadline
January 5, 2015	Workshop on the Early Solar System Bombardment III Early registration deadline
January 6, 2015	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference Abstract deadline
January 20, 2015	Ground and space observatories: a joint venture to planetary science Registration deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Fourth Quarter, 2014		
	November 1-2, 2014 Sopron, HUNGARY	Workshop on Modern Analytical Methods Applied to Earth & Planetary Sciences http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/methods2014/
	November 3-5, 2014 Houston, TX, USA	Workshop on Volatiles in the Martian Interior http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2014/
	November 4-7, 2014 Greenbelt, MD, USA	2nd International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM-2014) http://ssed.gsfc.nasa.gov/IPM/
	November 9-14, 2014 Tucson, AZ, USA	46th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS 2014) http://aas.org/meetings/dps46
	December 15-19, 2014 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2014/
First Quarter, 2015		
New!	January 13-15, 2015 Tokyo, JAPAN	Earth-Life Science Institute 3rd International Symposium http://www.elsi.jp/en/research/activities/symposium/2015/01/sympo-03.html If you have any questions or are interested in presenting a poster, please send an email to sympo-03info@elsi.jp .
	January 27-28, 2015 Hampton, VA, USA	The Venus Instrument and Laboratory Measurements Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/venustech2015/
New!	February 4-6, 2015 Houston, TX, USA	Workshop on the Early Solar System Bombardment III http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/bombardment2015/
	February 11-12, 2015 Location TBA	Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting For more information, contact Håkan Svedhem: hsvedhem@esa.int

First Quarter, 2015

New!	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 16-20, 2015 The Woodlands, TX, USA	46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2015/

Second Quarter, 2015

	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 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 Laural, MD, USA	Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/craterstats2015/
	May 26-27, 2015 London, UK	iCubeSat 2015: 4th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop http://iCubeSat.org
	June 15-19, 2015 Cologne, GERMANY	12th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-12)
	June 15-19, 2015 Chicago, IL, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference 2015 (Abscon) http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2015/

Third Quarter, 2015

New!	July 27-31, 2015 Berkeley, CA, USA	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society
New!	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
New!	November 8-13, 2015 National Harbor, MD, USA	47th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS 2015)
New!	November 9-13, 2015 Foz do Iguacu, BRAZIL	2nd Symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2015): Water and Life in the Universe
New!	December 14-18, 2015 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting

2016

	January 7, 2016	20-Day ExoMars Launch Period Opens
	March 8, 2016	20-Day Insight Launch Window Opens
New!	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
New!	August 7-12, 2016 Berlin, GERMANY	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society
	September 28, 2016	Insight Arrival at Mars
New!	October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting
	October 19, 2016	ExoMars Arrival at Mars

Seasons on Mars

	MY32	MY33	MY34
Start of Northern Spring / L _s 0	7/31/2013	6/18/2015	5/05/2017
Start of Northern Summer / L _s 90	2/15/2014	1/03/2016	11/20/2017
Start of Northern Autumn / L _s 180	8/17/2014	7/04/2016	5/22/2018
Start of Northern Winter / L _s 270	1/11/2015	11/28/2016	10/16/2018

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Good Friday	4/18/2014	4/3/2015	4/6/2016	4/14/2017
Rosh Hashanah	9/25/2014	9/14/2015	9/16/2016	9/20/2017
Yom Kippur	10/4/2014	9/23/2015	9/25/2016	9/29/2017
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/27/2014	11/26/2015	11/22/2016	11/23/2017
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/13/2014	10/12/2015	10/8/2016	10/9/2017
Christmas Day	12/25/2014	12/25/2015	12/25/2016	12/25/2017

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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>