

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

Mars Science News

August 2017

## From the MEPAG Chair — Save the Date for MEPAG Meeting 35

The 35th meeting of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group is scheduled as a virtual meeting for Monday, September 25th, 2017. The meeting is expected to last approximately two hours, and focus on information relevant for smaller, lower-cost missions within the Mars System, including reports from Mars-related studies selected by the Planetary Science Deep Space SmallSat Studies (PSDS3) program. Stay tuned for an Information Circular that will provide details on timing, agenda, and presentation content.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey R. Johnson  
MEPAG Chair

## Solar Conjunction Navigated

All continuing Mars missions have exited solar conjunction and are back to normal operations. As always, we recognize the dedicated efforts of our mission planners in completing these difficult operations.

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

Due	Project
August 20	<b>The Many Scales of the Universe: Galaxies, Their Suns and Their Planets</b> , Abstract Deadline
August 24	<b>51st ESLAB Symposium: Extreme Habitable Worlds</b> , Abstract Deadline
August 29	<b>The Workshop on Modern Analytical Methods Applied to Earth, Planetary and Material Sciences II</b> , Abstract Deadline
August 31	<b>49th Annual Division for Planetary Sciences Meeting</b> , Late Abstract Deadline
August 31	<b>The 3rd COSPAR Symposium</b> , Registration Deadline
August 31	<b>9th International Conference on Geomorphology</b> , Early Registration Deadline
August 31	<b>Back to the Moon Workshop</b> , Registration Deadline
September 18	<b>The Fourth International Conference on Early Mars</b> , Early Registration Deadline
September 18	<b>2017 GSA Annual Meeting</b> , Early Registration Deadline
September 26	<b>The Eighth Moscow Solar System Symposium</b> , Registration Deadline
October 12	<b>Habitable Worlds 2017: A System Science Workshop</b> , Early Registration Deadline

## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

A note about “conferences” and this calendar of events

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

## Third Quarter, 2017

<b>New!</b>	September 6-7, 2017 La Jolla, CA	<b>NASA Outer Planets Assessment Group</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/</a>
	September 13-14, 2017 Irvine, CA, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b> <a href="http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events">http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events</a>
	September 17-22, 2017 Riga, Latvia	<b>European Planetary Science Congress</b> NCTS# 29142-17 <a href="http://www.epsc2017.eu/">http://www.epsc2017.eu/</a>
	September 18-22, 2017 Goettingen, Germany	<b>The Many Scales of the Universe: Galaxies, Their Suns and Their Planets</b> NCTS# 28609-17 <a href="http://ag2017.uni-goettingen.de/">http://ag2017.uni-goettingen.de/</a>
	September 18-22, 2017 Jeju Island, South Korea	<b>The 3rd COSPAR Symposium; Small Satellites for Space Research</b> NCTS# 28434-17 Abstract Submission is now open <a href="https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/">https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/</a>
	September 25-27, 2017 Jena, Germany	<b>Planet Formation and Evolution 2017</b> NCTS# 27623-17 <a href="http://www.astro.uni-jena.de/~pfe2017/">http://www.astro.uni-jena.de/~pfe2017/</a>
	September 25-29, 2017 Adelaide, Australia	<b>68th International Astronautical Congress</b> <a href="http://www.iac2017.org/">http://www.iac2017.org/</a> NCTS# 27783-17
	September 25-29, 2017 Furnas, Azores, Portugal	<b>Geosciences for Understanding Habitability in the Universe</b> <a href="http://www.egu-galileo.eu/gc2-habitability/">http://www.egu-galileo.eu/gc2-habitability/</a>

## Fourth Quarter, 2017

	October 2-6, 2017 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	<b>The Fourth International Conference on Early Mars</b> NCTS# 29455-18 <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/earlymars2017/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/earlymars2017/</a>
	October 9-13, 2017 Moscow, Russia	<b>The Eighth Moscow Solar System Symposium</b> NCTS# 30612-18 <a href="https://ms2017.cosmos.ru/">https://ms2017.cosmos.ru/</a>
	October 10-12, 2017 Columbia, MD	<b>Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG)</b> NCTS# 30482-18 <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2017/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2017/</a>
	October 10-12, 2017 Toulouse, France	<b>33rd International Meeting of Planetary Sedimentology: Mars, Titan, and Elsewhere</b> <a href="http://ims2017.sciencesconf.org">ims2017.sciencesconf.org</a>
<b>New!</b>	October 12-13, 2017 Columbia, MD	<b>Back to the Moon Workshop</b> NCTS# 30618-18 <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/moon2017/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/moon2017/</a>
	October 15-20, 2017 Provo, UT, USA	<b>49th Division of Planetary Sciences Meeting</b> NCTS# 28527-18 <a href="https://aas.org/meetings/dps49">https://aas.org/meetings/dps49</a>
	October 22 –25, 2017 Seattle, WA, USA	<b>2017 GSA Annual Meeting</b> NCTS# 28544-18 <a href="http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2017/home">http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2017/home</a>
	November 6-11, 2017 New Delhi, India	<b>9th International Conference on Geomorphology</b> <a href="http://www.icg2017.com/">http://www.icg2017.com/</a>
	November 11-12, 2017 Budapest, Hungary	<b>The Workshop on Modern Analytical Methods Applied to Earth, Planetary and Material Sciences II</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/methods2017/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/methods2017/</a>
	November 11-15, 2017 Baltimore, MD, USA	<b>Planning Solary System Observations with JWST</b> <a href="#">Planning Solary System Observations with JWST</a>
	November 13-17, 2017 Laramie, WY, USA	<b>Habitable Worlds 2017: A System Science Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/habitableworlds2017/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/habitableworlds2017/</a>
	November 14-16, 2017 Laurel, Maryland USA	<b>VEXAG Meeting #15</b> NCTS# 30391-18 Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/</a>
	Nov 26-Dec 1, 2017 Coyhaique, Chile	<b>Astrobiology 2017</b> NCTS# 28382-18 <a href="http://astrobiology2017.org/">http://astrobiology2017.org/</a> NCTS# 28382-18
	December 4-8, 2017 Noordwijk, Netherlands	<b>51st ESLAB Symposium: Extreme Habitable Worlds</b> NCTS# 30869-18 <a href="http://esaconferencebureau.com/2017-events/eslab2017">http://esaconferencebureau.com/2017-events/eslab2017</a>
<b>New!</b>	December 11-15, 2017 Pasadena, CA	<b>JWST Proposal and Planning Workshop</b> <a href="https://jwst.stsci.edu/news-events/events/events-area/stsci-events-listing-container/jwst-proposal-and-planning-workshop-1?mwc=4">https://jwst.stsci.edu/news-events/events/events-area/stsci-events-listing-container/jwst-proposal-and-planning-workshop-1?mwc=4</a>
	December 11-15, 2017 New Orleans, LA, USA	<b>American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting (AGU)</b> NCTS# 28919-18 <a href="http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/2017-fall-meeting-new-orleans/">http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/2017-fall-meeting-new-orleans/</a>
	December 13-15, 2017 Noordwijk, Netherlands	<b>JWST Solar System Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/jwst-ssws-2017/home">https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/jwst-ssws-2017/home</a>

## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops continued...

2018		
	March 3-10 Big Sky, Montana, USA	<b>IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> NCTS#30394-18 <a href="http://www.aeroconf.org/">http://www.aeroconf.org/</a>
	March 5, 2018	<b>Insight launch window opens</b>
	March 5-9, 2018 Santiago, Chile	<b>Diversis Mundi (OPS-III): The Solar System in an Exoplanetary Context</b> <a href="http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2018/ops2018.html">http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2018/ops2018.html</a>
	March 19-23, 2018 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>49th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> NCTS# 30582-18 <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2018/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2018/</a>
	March 27-29, 2018 Washington, DC USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Sciences (CAPS)</b> <a href="http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events">http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events</a>
	April 24-26, 2018 St. Louis, MO, USA	<b>Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics</b> <a href="https://psida.rsl.wustl.edu/">https://psida.rsl.wustl.edu/</a>
	May 7-11, 2018 San Gabriel Valley, CA, USA	<b>Differentiation: Building the Internal Architecture of Planets</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/differentiation2018/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/differentiation2018/</a>
<b>New!</b>	May 14-17, 2018 Kobe, Japan	<b>9th Workshop on Catastrophic Disruption in the Solar System (CD9)</b> <a href="http://www.impact-res.org/CD2018/Catastrophic_Disruption_2018/Welcome.html">http://www.impact-res.org/CD2018/Catastrophic_Disruption_2018/Welcome.html</a>
	June 18-22, 2018 Lakewood, CO	<b>Amazonian Climate Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/amazonian2018/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/amazonian2018/</a>
	July 14-22, 2018 Pasadena, CA	<b>COSPAR 2018</b> NCTS# 28500-18 <a href="https://www.cospas-assembly.org/">https://www.cospas-assembly.org/</a>
	September 12-13, 2018 Irvine, CA, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b> <a href="http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events">http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events</a>
	Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2018 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	<b>Bombardment: Shaping Planetary Surfaces and Their Environments</b> NCTS# 28520-18 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/first-billion-years/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/first-billion-years/</a>
	November 4-7, 2018 Indianapolis, IN	<b>2018 GSA Annual Meeting</b> <a href="https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2018.aspx">https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2018.aspx</a>
	November 26, 2018	<b>Insight landing</b>

## Seasons on Mars

	MY34	MY35	MY36
Start of Northern Spring / L <sub>s</sub> 0	5/05/2017	3/23/2019	2/07/2021
Start of Northern Summer / L <sub>s</sub> 90	11/20/2017	10/08/2019	8/25/2021
Start of Northern Autumn / L <sub>s</sub> 180	5/22/2018	4/08/2020	2/24/2022
Start of Northern Winter / L <sub>s</sub> 270	10/16/2018	9/02/2020	7/21/2022

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

Good Friday	4/14/2017	3/30/2018	4/19/2019	4/10/20
Rosh Hashanah	9/21/2017	9/10/2018	9/30/2019	9/19/20
Yom Kippur	9/30/2017	9/19/2018	10/09/2019	9/28/20
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/09/2017	10/08/2018	10/14/2019	10/12/20
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/23/2017	11/22/2018	11/28/2019	11/26/20
Christmas Day	12/25/2017	12/25/2018	12/25/2019	12/25/20

## Editors

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

James Ashley at [James.W.Ashley@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:James.W.Ashley@jpl.nasa.gov)

This newsletter (and all previous months') is also posted on the MEPAG website: <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>

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