

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

Issue: November 2009

Next MEPAG meeting March 17-18, 2010, Monrovia, California.

Mars Science News

Mars Decadal Survey Panel Meeting

The Mars Decadal Survey Panel will meet November 4-6 at Caltech in Pasadena, CA. Agenda at: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/CurrentProjects/ssb_052412
The session on November 4th is open to the public.

Note Steve Squyres's latest letter to the community about the Decadal Survey is posted at: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_054187

Call for Candidate Future Mars Landing Sites

The Mars Program Offices at NASA Headquarters and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory invite submission of new candidate landing sites for future missions. The goal is to gather information on future candidate landing sites and develop a list of high priority candidate landing sites for a range of possible future missions so that targeting by instruments on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) and Mars Odyssey (ODY) can begin while those orbital assets are still in operation. Proposed landing sites require submission of a short abstract (template available at <http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/msl> and <http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/>) and can be for a variety of future Mars missions (e.g., Sample Return, Network Science, or other potential missions), but must include specific but brief statements about the type of mission and mission science objectives, location of the candidate landing ellipse and how it addresses the mission science, desired target for initial imaging by MRO and ODY instruments, and basic information related to engineering (elevation and latitude that is supplemented by information regarding rock abundance, thermal inertia, and slopes

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
11/1	Lunar Dust, Plasma & Atmosphere abstracts and registration deadline
12/1	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference #41 abstracts deadline
12/1	Astrobiology Science Conference 2010 abstracts deadline
1/15	Planet Mars III Workshop registration deadline
1/18	EGU – General Assembly 2010 abstracts deadline
1/22	Lunar Exploration Summer Intern Program application deadline

where available). Preliminary science goals for Sample Return and MAX-C can be found at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/reports/index.html>. Candidate sites for MSL are excluded from consideration as there is a separate call for sites for that mission. An ellipse size of 15 km will be assumed for missions using MSL heritage landing systems, such as sample return or the MAX-C rover being considered for 2018. Missions using other landing systems must include an ellipse based on expectations from mission concept studies.

New candidate landing sites can be submitted through the end of 2009 and should be submitted via e-mail to both John Grant (grantj@si.edu) and Matt Golombek (mgolombek@jpl.nasa.gov). Individuals are limited to proposal of 3 sites/specific ellipses and are responsible for including a summary review of existing MRO and other data for their candidate sites. After review and prioritization by the landing site steering committee, a list of up to 100 candidate sites will be provided to the MRO, ODY, and Mars Express teams for imaging during the first year. Data will be made available to proposers as soon as images/data products are available. It is anticipated that a dedicated landing site workshop will be held late in 2010 or early in 2011 to enable discussion of new candidate sites and it is likely that those sites deemed of the highest merit will be selected for additional imaging. This call for candidate new landing sites is an unfunded effort.

It is anticipated that a call for proposals (RFP) to support analysis of new candidate landing sites will be issued by Critical Data Products (CDP) Program at JPL in January 2010. It is expected that CDP will fund approximately 5-10 proposals at 25K for one year in early 2010 with additional funding anticipated for additional sites in future years.

Regards,
John Grant and Matt Golombek

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2009</i>		
	November 4-6, 2009 Pasadena, California, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Mars Panel Meeting California Institute of Technology, 1200 E. California Boulevard
	November 9-10, 2009 Amman, JORDAN	The first Arab Impact Cratering and Astrogeology Conference http://aicac.jga.org.jo/main1/
	November 16-18, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Planetary Science Steering Group National Academies' Beckman Center (Huntington Room). http://www7.nationalacademies.org/beckman/
	November 16-19, 2009 Houston, Texas, USA	Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG 2009) at the Lunar and Planetary Institute http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/leag2009

	Update November 23-24, 2009 ESRIN, Frascati, ITALY	Mars Express Science Team Meeting Monday-Tuesday before the Workshop on Methane on Mars Contact Olivier Witasse (Olivier.Witasse@esa.int)
	November 25-27, 2009 ESRIN, Frascati, ITALY	Joint ESA-ASI Workshop on Methane on Mars: Current Observations, Interpretation and Future Plans The goal of the workshop is to review the potential reservoirs and release mechanisms of methane and its circulation in the atmosphere, and possible origins of this constituent. http://www.congrex.nl/09c26/ Contact Olivier Witasse (Olivier.Witasse@esa.int)
	December 15-17, 2009 London, UK	Exploration Remote Sensing – GRSG AGM 2009 The Geological Society (Burlington House) Contact: Chairman Dan Taranik at dtaranik@angloamerican.co.uk Web site: http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/grsg2009
	December 14–18, 2009 San Francisco, California, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/
<i>First Quarter, 2010</i>		
	2010 Golden, Colorado, USA	11th Space Resources Roundtable Held at the Colorado School of Mines Joining individuals from the space exploration community, the financial sector and mining and minerals industries, the SRR seeks to bring together interested parties to discuss issues related to the In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) of Lunar, asteroidal and Martian resources.
	January 4-9, 2010 Seapal Suma, Kobe, JAPAN	The CPS 6th International School of Planetary Sciences – First Circular “Planetary Atmospheres – Sisters, relatives and ancestors of our own” Enrollment: 50 participants - Application deadline: September 25, 2009 http://w2ww.cps-jp.org/~pschool/2010-01-04/
	January 10-15, 2010 Galveston, Texas, USA	The Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) Origin of Life Being held in conjunction with the Gordon Research Conference Origin of life (January 10-15, 2010) and will offer the unique opportunity for young researchers to present cutting edge research and discuss emerging ideas within the origin of life context. http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&program=origin http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&program=grs_origin
	January 12-14, 2010 Pasadena, California, USA	Introduction to SPICE Class Contact Chuck Acton (Charles.acton@jpl.nasa.gov)
	January 13-15, 2010 Santiago, CHILE	Astrobio 2010 http://www.astro.puc.cl/astrobio2010/HOME.html
	January 21-22, 2010 Tempe, Arizona, USA	Ground-Based Geophysics on the Moon Contacts: Matthew Fouch, Andrew Dombard, Catherine Johnson at lunargeophys@asu.edu http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lunargeo2010/lunargeo20101st.shtml
	January 25-26, 2010 London, UK	The Detection of Extra-Terrestrial Life and the Consequences for Science and Society http://royalsociety.org/event.asp?id=8602&month=1,2010
	January 26, 2010 Tempe, AZ, USA	Mars Odyssey PSG Arizona State University Hosted by Phil Chistensen

	January 27-29, 2010 Boulder, CO, USA	Lunar Dust, Plasma and Atmosphere: The Next Steps A scientific workshop on "Lunar Dust, Plasma and Atmosphere: The Next Steps" will be held at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics of the University of Colorado. http://lpa2010.colorado.edu/
	February 18-20, 2010 Boulder, CO, USA	Next-Generation Suborbital Researchers Conference Save the date Announcement at http://lpi.usra.edu/meetings/nsrc2010
	February 22-24, 2010 Irvine, CA, USA	Decadal Survey Steering Group
	February 27-28, 2010 The Woodlands, Texas, USA	Brown-Vernadsky Microsymposium 51 Compositional Structure of the Lunar Crust: The New View from the Moon, Sponsored by Brown University, The Vernadsky Inst., Brown/MIT NLSI. Apollo and Luna exploration and sample return missions were targeted to specific areas of high interest. http://www.planetary.brown.edu/planetary/international/micro51.html
	March 1-5, 2010 The Woodlands, Texas, USA	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference #41 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/ Abstracts deadline December 1, 2009, 5:00 p.m. (CST)
	March 14-17, 2010 Honolulu, Hawaii, USA	ASCE Earth and Space 2010 Conference There will be 15 symposia, including Exploration and Utilization of Extraterrestrial Bodies and NASA/ARO/ASCE Workshop on Granular Materials in Lunar and Martian Exploration. http://content.asce.org/conferences/earthspace2010/index.html
	March 17-18, 2010 Monrovia, California, USA	Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG #22) http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meeting/mar-10/index.html
	March 28-April 2, 2010 Valley of Chamonix, FRANCE	Planet Mars III Workshop – Les Houches Contact Oliver Witasse at owitasse@rssd.esa.int http://www.rssd.esa.int/index.php?project=MARSEXPRE&page=planet_mars3 Registration deadline January 15, 2010
Second Quarter, 2010		
	April 12-14, 2010 Boulder, CO, USA	Decadal Survey Satellites Panel
	April 14-16, 2010 Boulder, CO, USA	Decadal Survey Mars Panel
	April 19-23, 2010 El Paso, Texas, USA	First International Conference on Mars Sedimentology and Stratigraphy A week-long conference including a 2-day field trip to look at the Mars analog sedimentary rocks that have filled the western part of the Permian Basin. http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/marssted2010/index.shtml
	April 21-23, 2010 Boulder, CO, USA	Decadal Survey Inner Planets Panel
	April 26-28, 2010 Knoxville, TN, USA	Decadal Survey Primitive Bodies Panel
	April 26-29, 2010 League City, Texas, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference 2010 Abstracts deadline December 1, 2009 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2010/abscicon20101st.shtml

	May 2-7, 2010 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geosciences Union (EGU) – General Assembly 1010 Abstracts deadline January 18, 2010
	May 3-6, 2010 Monastir, TUNISIA	Astronomical Data Analysis (ADA6) http://www.aset.org.tn/conf/ADA6
	May 5-7, 2010 Boston, MA, USA	Decadal Survey Giant Planets Panel (or Woods Hole, MA)
	May 25-27, 2010 Washington, DC, USA	Decadal Survey Steering Group
	June 1–August 9, 2010 Houston, TX, USA	Lunar Exploration Summer Intern Program Hosted by Lunar Planetary Institute (LPI) Contact Dr. David Kring at kring@lpi.usra.edu http://www.lpi.usra.edu/lunar_intern/
	June 12-13, 2010 Barcelona, SPAIN	Planetary Protection Short Course http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 13-18, 2010 Knoxville, TN, USA	Goldschmidt Conference http://www.goldschmidt2010.org/ Contact: Hap McSween at mcsween@utk.edu Abstracts deadline not yet established
	June 14-16, 2010 Brittany, FRANCE	Faraday Discussion 147: Chemistry of the Planets Saint Jacut de la Mer. Contact: Ian Sims, ian.sims@univ-rennes1.fr http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/FD147/index.asp
	June 14-18, 2010 Barcelona, SPAIN	7th International Planetary Probe Workshop 2010 (IPPW-7) http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 8-12, 2010 Oslo, NORWAY	International Polar Year Oslo Science Conference http://www.ipy-osc.no/
<i>Third Quarter, 2010</i>		
	July 2010	Third MSL Landing Site Engineering Assessment Workshop
	July 18–25, 2010 Bremen, GERMANY	38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly Abstract Deadline: Mid-February 2010 Topics: - SC B: The Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System - SC C: The Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets Including Reference Atmospheres - SC D: Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Planetary Magnetospheres - SC F : Astrobiology and Space Science, Including Habitability on Mars : Past, Present & Future - Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP) Contact: cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr http://www.cospar2010.org/ or http://www.cospar-assembly.org
	July 26-30, 2010 New York, New York, USA	73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Dr. Denton Ebel http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings

	July 26-30, 2010 Pasadena, California, USA	2010 Sagan Summer Workshop http://nexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2010/index.shtml
	September 2010	Fourth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2010</i>		
	October 4-8, 2010 Sapporo, JAPAN	5th Alfven Conference: Plasma Interaction with Non-Magnetized Planets/Moons and Its Influence on Planetary Evolution http://www.ep.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/~alfven5/
	Correction October 18-22, 2010 Pasadena, California, USA	42nd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 31– November 3, 2010 Denver, Colorado, USA	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, California, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2011</i>		
	March 2011	Fifth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop
	August 2011 Greenwich England, UNITED KINGDOM	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2011 Nice, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, California, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012</i>		
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Trevor Ireland http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	The 34th International Geological Congress http://www.33igc.org/
<i>2013</i>		
	July 2013 Pasadena, California, USA	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology

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

Good Friday	4/10/2009	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012	3/29/2013
Rosh Hashanah	9/19/2009	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012	9/5/2013
Yom Kippur	9/28/2009	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012	9/14/2013
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/26/2009	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012	11/28/2013
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/12/2009	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012	10/14/2013

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.