

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

Issue: November 2010

Next MEPAG meeting June 16-17, 2011, Lisbon, Portugal

Mars Science News

MEPAG TOWN HALL MEETING AT AGU FALL MEETING

MEPAG will be having a town hall meeting at AGU on December 15, 2010, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Moscone West, Room 3007. Topics to be discussed are preliminary results from the Mars Sample Return End-to-End Science Analysis Group (E2E-SAG) and from the Supporting Research and Technology Science Analysis Group (SRT-SAG). All are invited to attend.

UPDATE ON MSL LANDING SITE SELECTION PROCESS:

The fourth Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) Landing Site Workshop was recently held in Monrovia, CA, from September 27-29, 2010, and was strongly focused on discussion of the science merits of the four remaining candidate landing sites and development of summary statements of their merits as measured against the major science objectives of the MSL mission.

There was unanimous agreement from workshop participants that all four of the sites (Gale Crater, Mawrth Vallis, Holden crater, and Eberswalde crater) represent acceptable science targets for exploration by MSL and that all four should remain under consideration. Summary statements emerging from the workshop represent strong community consensus on the science merits of the sites and can be viewed in the "Workshop Summary Letter" at <http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/> and <http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/msl>. The science community is encouraged to review the summary statements and provide comments to John Grant (grantj@si.edu) and Matt Golombek (mgolombek@jpl.nasa.gov) that will be reviewed by the MSL Landing Site Steering Committee.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
11/14	2010 JUSTSAP Symposium Early Bird Registration deadline
11/19	Planetary Protection: Policies and Practices registration deadline
11/23	2011 NSRC Conference abstracts deadline
11/26	4th Int'l Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere abstracts deadline
12/4	Geobiology in Space Exploration Workshop and Field Trip registration deadline
12/17	CORALS-2011 Conference indication of interest deadline
1/4	42nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference abstracts deadline
1/7	Geobiology in Space Exploration Workshop and Field Trip abstracts deadline

Between now and the next MSL Landing Site Workshop, to be held in the spring of 2011, the MSL Project would like to collect suggestions from the community of specific targets for study at each of the four landing sites. To participate, please go to <http://msl.gps.caltech.edu> <<http://msl.gps.caltech.edu/>> which provides directions for suggesting targets for study at the 4 landing sites, including a brief description of its attributes and motivation for study [questions can be directed to Jen Griffes (griffes@gps.caltech.edu)]. At some future date, probably in January of 2011, the Project will host a series of telecons where these targets can be presented and discussed with members of the community.

CALL FOR IMAGING OF CANDIDATE FUTURE MARS LANDING SITES:

The Mars Program Offices at NASA Headquarters and The Jet Propulsion Laboratory invite submission of imaging targets for potential new candidate landing sites for future Mars missions. The goal is to gather information on future candidate landing sites while instruments on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) and Mars Odyssey (ODY) are still in operation. Proposed landing sites can be for a variety of future Mars missions (e.g., Sample Return, Network Science), 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, and a specific target for imaging by MRO and ODY instruments. Basic information related to engineering constraints (elevation, latitude, rock abundance, thermal inertia, and slopes) should also be provided if known. Image requests for candidate sites for the proposed 2018 mission (http://mepaq.jpl.nasa.gov/reports/2R-iSAG_final.pdf) are encouraged, but image requests for candidate sites for MSL are excluded from consideration. An ellipse size of 10-15 km across will be assumed for missions using MSL heritage landing systems, such as the proposed mission for 2018. Missions using other landing systems must include an ellipse based on expectations from mission concept studies.

Requests for images of potential new candidate landing sites can be submitted through the end of 2010 and should be submitted via e-mail to both John Grant (grantj@si.edu) and Matt Golombek (mgolombek@jpl.nasa.gov) using the abstract template posted at: <http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/> and <http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/msl>. Requests for additional images of previously submitted potential future candidate sites are acceptable, but should show where the new images being requested are located and indicate their importance relative to previous imaging requests. After review, a list of candidate sites will be provided to the MRO, ODY, and Mars Express teams for imaging. It is anticipated that between 80 and 100 images of potential candidate sites can be obtained during 2011 and data will be made available to proposers as soon as images are available. It is anticipated that a dedicated landing site workshop will be held late in 2011 or early 2012 to facilitate discussion of new candidate sites and it is likely that those sites deemed of the highest merit will be selected for additional imaging.

This data call is an unfunded effort, but 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 November 2010. It is expected that CDP will fund approximately 10-20 proposals at 25K for one year in early 2011.

MAVEN MISSION GIVEN APPROVAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND 2013 LAUNCH

The MAVEN mission has passed its confirmation review, formally known as "Key Decision Point C." Michael Luther, on behalf of Dr. Ed Weiler, of the NASA Headquarters Science Mission Directorate, led

a confirmation review panel that approved the detailed plans, instrument suite, budget, and risk factor analysis for the spacecraft. The project is now authorized into the development phase.

NASA press release: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/news/releases/2010/10-087.html>

MARS 2016 ENTRY-DESCENT-LANDING DEMONSTRATOR MODULE SCIENCE

This is to inform you of an upcoming opportunity to participate in the Mars 2016 Entry-Descent-Landing (EDL) Demonstrator Module (EDM) science.

Background: As part of the ExoMars 2016 mission, ESA is providing the EDL Demonstrator Module, a short-lived (~8 sol) lander. Although designed to demonstrate EDL technologies, the EDM may have a very limited science capability. ESA will be issuing an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for possible science instrumentation to be included on the lander and associated science investigations. This ESA AO will be released during November 2010.

Opportunity: NASA will consider supporting participation of U.S. investigators as individual Co-Investigators on EDL surface payload proposals that are submitted from ESA participating states. All proposals must be submitted directly to the ESA Announcement of Opportunity and must be in collaboration with ESA participating state investigators. NASA will not support hardware contributions.


Process: Interested scientists should affiliate themselves as a scientific Co-I with a proposal from an ESA participating state. In the event that this proposal is selected by ESA, NASA will invite a proposal from the U.S. investigator as a participating scientist. NASA expects to fund up to three individuals as participating scientists beginning in October 2011.

Further details or questions concerning this opportunity should be addressed to:

Dr. Philippe Crane, NASA ExoMars 2016 Program Scientist, philippe.crane@nasa.gov (202) 358-0716 or Dr. Jorge Vago, ESA ExoMars 2016 Program Scientist, Jorge.Vago@esa.int +31 71 565 5211.

Philippe Crane
NASA ExoMars 2016 Program Scientist

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2010</i>		
	November 8-9, 2010 NETHERLANDS	Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting joint with Venus Express Science Team Meeting Contact Oliver Witasse at owitasse@rssd.esa.int
	November 14-18, 2010 Fairmont Orchard, HI, USA	2010 JUSTSAP Symposium "The Next Giant Leap: Building Sustainable Settlements Beyond Low-Earth Orbit" http://justsap.org/2010-justsap-symposium.html

	November 15-19, 2010 Orlando, FL, USA	ISPRS Symposium / Planetary Mapping Workshop The symposium has a dedicated workshop on Planetary Mapping, which will include data acquisition, processing and analysis, as well as planetary reference system and data bases. http://www.asprs.org/orlando2010/index.html Call for abstracts http://www.asprs.org/orlando2010/OrlandoCallDomestic.pdf
	December 6-8, 2010 Brussels, BE	COST Workshop: "Carbon in the Solar System" This meeting is organized by the Working Group 3: chemistry in the solar system of the COST action CM-0805 "The chemical cosmos". COST is a science support program of the European Council aimed at promoting networking in European research, but this meeting is open to all interested parties. More details can be obtained at Christian.Muller@busoc.be Registration is open on http://www.busoc.eu/cost/
	December 7-9, 2010 Kennedy Space Center, FL, USA	Planetary Protection: Policies and Practices Registration deadline November 19, 2010 Contact Technical Administrative Services (tasalb@msn.com)
	December 13-17, 2010 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting http://www.agu.org/meetings
<i>First Quarter 2011</i>		
	January 17-21, 2011 Leiden/Noordwijk, THE NETHERLANDS	Landing Site Characterization and Selection for Future Exploration Missions, a Europlanet JRA1 Workshop http://www.planetarygis.org/wiki/workshop2011
	January 25-26, 2011 Washington, DC, USA	4th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG)
	February 8-11, 2011 Paris, FRANCE	4th International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modeling and Observations Abstract deadline November 26, 2010 http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2011/
	February 7-9, 2011 Marrakech, MOROCCO	Geobiology in Space Exploration Workshop and Field Trip A meeting of talks and discussions to understand the full range of the contributions of geobiology to space exploration and settlement. Field trip "Geomicrobiology and Geology from Precambrian to Quaternary" - dates are February 10-14, 2011. Deadline for registration without surcharge is December 4, 2010. Abstract submission deadline is January 7, 2011. http://www.irsps.unich.it/education/geoexp2011/
	February 18-22, 2011 Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA	IAG/AIG Regional Conference on Geomorphology http://www.geomorph.org/main.html
	February 23, 2011 Pasadena, CA, USA	48th 2001 Mars Odyssey PSG Meeting Jet Propulsion Laboratory
	February 28-March 2, 2011 Boulder, CO, USA	2011 Next Generation Suborbital Researchers Conference Registration open – Abstracts deadline November 23, 2010 http://nsrc.swri.org
	March 5-6, 2011 The Woodlands, TX, USA	Workshop on the Importance of Solar System Sample Return Missions to the Future of Planetary Science The workshop will focus on why sample return science is important to the future of solar system science and exploration, including the implications for NASA as it plans and implements future missions. Topics include the potential solar system targets of interest for sample return; storage, curation of the target of interest, during transit, and back on Earth, and selected planetary protection topics.

	March 7-11, 2011 The Woodlands, TX, USA	42nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference Abstracts due by January 4, 2011 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2011/
<i>Second Quarter, 2011</i>		
	Update April 2011	Fifth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop
	April 3-8, 2011 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geosciences Union General Assembly http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2011
	April 11-15, 2011 Houston, TX, USA	Humans in Space Symposium http://www.dsls.usra.edu/meetings/IAA/
	May 4-6, 2011 Pisa, ITALY	Solar System Science Before and After Gaia http://www.oca.eu/workshop/Pise/
	May 18-20, 2011 Madrid, SPAIN	Conference on Micro-Raman Spectroscopy and Luminescence Studies in the Earth and Planetary Sciences (CORALS II) Indication of Interest deadline December 17, 2010 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/corals2011/
	Correction June 6-10, 2011 Portsmouth, VA, USA	8th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-8) Contact Michelle Munk, Michelle.M.Munk@nasa.gov
	June 5-8, 2011 Bozeman, MT, USA	AbGradCon 2011 – Astrobiology Graduate Student Conference http://abgradcon2011.org/
	Update June 13-15, 2011 Lisbon, PORTUGAL	International Conference on Mars on “The Exploration of Mars Habitability” Pre-Conference Mars Science Team Meetings: June 12-13 (1.5) days. Open for Mars science team meetings. Post-Meeting Field Trip: Rio Tinto, Spain: June 18-20/21 (3-4 days). Visit to unique geology and acidic environment.
	June 13-15, 2011 Houston, TX, USA	A Wet vs. Dry Moon: Exploring Volatile Reservoirs and Implications for the Evolution of the Moon and Future Exploration http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2011/
	June 16-17, 2011 Lisbon, PORTUGAL	First International MEPAG Meeting
	Update June 19-22, 2011 Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA	2nd Annual Joint Planetary and Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium and Space Resources Roundtable (PTMSS/SRR) Details to be posted to the PTMSS website (www.ptmss.com) as they become available.
<i>Third Quarter, 2011</i>		
	July 3-8, 2011 Montpellier, FRANCE	ISSOL – The International Astrobiology Society an IAU C51 (Bioastronomy) Joint International Conference http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/

	July 17-22, 2011 South Hadley, MA, USA	2011 Gordon Research Conference on Origins of Solar Systems Applications deadline is June 26, 2011. Apply early because it is expected to be oversubscribed. http://www.grc.org
	August 8-11, 2011 Taipei, TAIWAN	AOGS 2011 – Asia Oceania Geosciences Society http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2011/public.asp?page=home.htm
	August 8-12, 2011 Greenwich, ENGLAND	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix (g.benedix@nhm.ac.uk) http://www.metsoc2011.org
	August 14-19, 2011 Prague, Czech Republic	Goldschmidt 2011 http://www.goldschmidt2011.org/
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2011</i>		
	October 2-7, 2011 Nantes, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS & 2011 European Planetary Science Congress Contact Olivier Grasset at Olivier.Grasset@univ-nantes.fr http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, MN, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012</i>		
	March 2012	43rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	Update July 14-22, 2012 Mysore, INDIA	COSPAR 2012 Scientific Assembly Abstracts deadline – mid-February 2012 http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Meetings/sciass.htm
	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/
	November 4-7, 2012 Charlotte, North Carolina, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
<i>2013</i>		
	March 2013	44th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	July 2013 Pasadena, CA, USA	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology
	October 27-30, 2013 Denver, Colorado, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
<i>2014</i>		
	March 2014	45th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	October 19-22, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA	Geological Society of American Annual Meeting

2015

March 2015

46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference

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

Good Friday	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012	3/29/2013	4/18/2014
Rosh Hashanah	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012	9/5/2013	9/25/2014
Yom Kippur	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012	9/14/2013	10/4/2014
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012	11/28/2013	11/27/2014
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012	10/14/2013	10/13/2014

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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>.