

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

Issue: December 2011

*Next MEPAG meeting February 27-28, 2012, Washington, DC area*

## Mars Science News

### *Mars Science Laboratory Launches!*



NASA's Mars Science Laboratory spacecraft, sealed inside its payload fairing atop the United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket, clears the tower at Space Launch Complex 41 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The mission lifted off at 10:02 a.m. EST (7:02 a.m. PST), November 26, beginning an eight-month interplanetary cruise to Mars.

The spacecraft's components include a car-sized rover, Curiosity, which has 10 science instruments designed to search for signs of life, including methane, and to help determine if this gas is from a biological or geological source.

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

Due	Project
12/1	<b>219<sup>th</sup> AAS Meeting</b> late abstracts deadline
12/20	<b>219<sup>th</sup> AAS Meeting</b> late registration deadline
1/10	<b>43 LPSC</b> abstracts deadline
1/17	<b>European Geosciences Union General Assembly</b> abstracts deadline
1/31	<b>AbSciCon 2012</b> abstracts deadline
2/10	<b>COSPAR 2012</b> abstracts deadline
3/16	<b>Mars Recent Climate Change Workshop</b> deadline for: Initial abstract submission; and Foreign National registration

REMINDER: The Conference on Life Detection in Extraterrestrial Samples is coming up Feb. 13-15, 2012, at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, CA. For further information, see the conference web site <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lifedetection2012/>. The conference will be 2.5 days in length, and will include five half-day oral sessions, significant discussion time at the end of each session, two slots for directed discussions, and an evening poster session. The registration fee has been kept low to encourage attendance, but be mindful of the Jan. 15 registration deadline. The final program, with abstracts, is expected to be posted on the conference web site by about Dec. 13. This conference is expected to provide key inputs to the planning for the eventual return of samples from Mars.

## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2011</i>		
	December 5-9, 2011 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> Session P03: Active Mars Surface Processes and the Role of Volatiles Session P05: Coordinated Mineralogy and Morphology Studies of Martian Aqueous Deposits Session P12: Hydrothermal Mars – Analogues and Observations Session P18: Mars System Science: Integrating Martian Planetary Processes from the Subsurface to the Surface Session P20: Nanocrystalline Materials on Earth and Mars Session P22: Phyllosilicate Formation on Mars – Connecting Experimental and Theoretical Studies with Planetary Observations Session P30: Preparing for the Science of Mars Sample Return Session P32A: Mars Science Laboratory: Strategic Science at the Selected Field Site Session SA06: Ionospheres of Unmagnetized Planets – Venus, Mars, and Titan <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings">http://www.agu.org/meetings</a>
<i>First Quarter, 2012</i>		
	January 8-12, 2012 Austin, TX, USA	<b>219<sup>th</sup> AAS Meeting</b> Late abstracts deadline December 1, 2011 Late registration deadline December 20, 2011 <a href="http://aas.org/meetings/aas219">http://aas.org/meetings/aas219</a>
	January 8-13, 2012 Galveston, TX, USA	<b>2012 Gordon Research Conference on "Origins of Life"</b> <a href="http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2012&amp;program=originlife">http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2012&amp;program=originlife</a>
	January 16-20, 2012 Aspen, CO, USA	<b>Exoclines 2012: The Diversity of Planetary Atmospheres</b> Register at <a href="https://db.aspenphys.org/fmi/iwp/cqi?-db=ACP&amp;-loadframes">https://db.aspenphys.org/fmi/iwp/cqi?-db=ACP&amp;-loadframes</a> Contact: Nick Cowan at <a href="mailto:n-cowan@northwestern.edu">n-cowan@northwestern.edu</a> <a href="http://exoclines.org">http://exoclines.org</a>
	February 1-3, 2012 Houston, TX, USA	<b>Workshop on the Early Solar System Impact Bombardment II</b> Abstract deadline November 8, 2011 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/bombardment2012/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/bombardment2012/</a>
	February 13-15, 2012 San Diego, CA, USA	<b>Conference on Life Detection in Extraterrestrial Samples</b> Abstract deadline November 10, 2011 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lifedetection2012/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lifedetection2012/</a>
	February 27-28, 2012 Washington, DC, USA	<b>MEPAG #25</b>
	February 29-March 2, 2012 Washington, DC, USA	<b>Mars 2018 Landing Site Workshop</b>

	March 3-10, 2012 Big Sky, MT, USA	<b>2012 IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> Big Sky Resort Registration deadline November 28, 2011 <a href="http://www.aeroconf.org">http://www.aeroconf.org</a>
	March 19-23, 2012 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>43<sup>rd</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> Indication of Interest forms due November 11, 2011 Abstracts deadline January 10, 2012 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2012">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2012</a>
	March 30, 2012	<b>Start of Mars Northern Summer</b>
<i>Second Quarter, 2012</i>		
	April 15-18, 2012 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>ASCE Earth and Space 2012</b> There will be 8 symposiums, including Exploration and Utilization of Extraterrestrial Bodies and 5 <sup>th</sup> NASA/ASCE Workshop on Granular Materials in Space Exploration. <a href="http://content.asce.org/conferences/earthspace2012/index.html">http://content.asce.org/conferences/earthspace2012/index.html</a>
	April 16-20, 2011 Atlanta, GA, USA	<b>Astrobiology Science Conference 2012 (AbSciCon 2012)</b> Abstracts deadline January 31, 2012 <a href="http://abscicon2012.arc.nasa.gov/">http://abscicon2012.arc.nasa.gov/</a>
	<b>Update</b> April 22-27, 2012 Vienna, AUSTRIA	<b>European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012</b> Abstracts deadline January 17, 2012 Students: Earlier abstract deadline (December 15, 2011) for those wishing to apply for travel support <a href="http://meeting.copernicus.org/egu2012/">http://meeting.copernicus.org/egu2012/</a>
	<b>Update</b> May 15-17, 2012 Moffett Field, CA, USA	<b>Mars Recent Climate Change Workshop</b> NASA Ames Research Center Initial abstract submission deadline March 16, 2012 Foreign National registration deadline March 16, 2012 U.S. registration deadline April 13, 2012 <a href="http://spacescience.arc.nasa.gov/mars-climate-workshop-2012/">http://spacescience.arc.nasa.gov/mars-climate-workshop-2012/</a>
 	May 20-25, 2012 Lake Tahoe, NV, USA	<b>Third International Conference on Early Mars: Geologic and Hydrologic Evolution, Physical and Chemical Environments, and the Implications for Life</b> First Announcement Available Now Indication of Interest form by January 3, 2012 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/earlymars2012/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/earlymars2012/</a>
	June 25-28, 2012 Boulder, CO, USA	<b>Conference on Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/climatology2012/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/climatology2012/</a>
	June 12-15, 2012 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	<b>Third International Planetary Dunes Workshop</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2012/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2012/</a>
	June 16-22, 2012 Toulouse, FRANCE	<b>9<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-9)</b> Short course – June 16-17, 2012 Workshop – June 18-22, 2012 <a href="http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/">http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/</a>
<i>Third Quarter, 2012</i>		
	July 14-22, 2012 Mysore, INDIA	<b>COSPAR 2012 Scientific Assembly</b> Abstracts deadline – mid-February 2012 <a href="http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Meetings/sciass.htm">http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Meetings/sciass.htm</a>
	July 23-27, 2012 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>2012 Sagan Summer Workshop: Working with Exoplanet Light Curves</b> <a href="http://mexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2012/">http://mexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2012/</a>

	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	<b>75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Trevor Ireland <a href="http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings">http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings</a>
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	<b>The 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress</b> <a href="http://www.33igc.org/">http://www.33igc.org/</a>
	August 6-20, 2012	<b>MSL Landing</b>
	August 13-17, 2012 Singapore	<b>AOGS-AGU (WPBM) Joint Assembly</b> <a href="http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2012/public.asp?page=home.htm">http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2012/public.asp?page=home.htm</a>
	September 10-12, 2012 Rome, ITALY	<b>1970-2010: The Golden Age of Solar System Exploration</b> <a href="http://goldenage2012.ifac.cnr.it/index.php/goldenage2012/goldenage2012">http://goldenage2012.ifac.cnr.it/index.php/goldenage2012/goldenage2012</a>
 	September 10-12, 2012 Houston, TX, USA	<b>The Mantle of Mars: Insights from Theory, Geophysics, High-Pressure Studies, and Meteorites</b> More details later <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/marsmantle2012/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/marsmantle2012/</a>
	September 19-21, 2012 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Planetary Crater Consortium meeting</b> Abstract deadline August 31, 2012 <a href="http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu">http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu</a>
	September 29, 2012	<b>Start of Mars Northern Fall</b>
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2012</i>		
	October 10-11, 2012 Greenbelt, MD, USA	<b>International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions</b> <a href="http://ssed.gsfc.nasa.gov/IPM.html">http://ssed.gsfc.nasa.gov/IPM.html</a>
	October 14-19, 2012 Reno, NV, USA	<b>44<sup>th</sup> DPS Annual Meeting</b>
	October 15-17, 2012 Stockholm, SWEDEN	<b>12<sup>th</sup> European Workshop on Astrobiology (EANA 2012)</b> <a href="http://agenda.albanova.se/conferenceDisplay.py?confid=2996">http://agenda.albanova.se/conferenceDisplay.py?confid=2996</a>
	October 25-27, 2012 Marrakech, MOROCCO	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Terrestrial Mars Analogues</b> Pre and post conference field trips <a href="http://www.ibnbattutacentre.org/conf/mars2012/">http://www.ibnbattutacentre.org/conf/mars2012/</a>
	November 4-7, 2012 Charlotte, NC, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>
	December 10-14, 2012 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b>
<i>2013</i>		
	March 2013	<b>44<sup>th</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
	July 2013 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mars</b> California Institute of Technology
	October 27-30, 2013 Denver, CO, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>
	November 18, 2013	<b>MAVEN Launch Period Opens</b>

December 9-13, 2013 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b>
<i>2014</i>	
March 2014	<b>45<sup>th</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
October 19-22, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>
December 15-19, 2014 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b>
<i>2015</i>	
March 2015	<b>46<sup>th</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>

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

Good Friday	4/22/2011	4/6/2012	3/29/2013	4/18/2014	4/3/2015
Rosh Hashanah	9/29/2011	9/17/2012	9/5/2013	9/25/2014	9/14/2015
Yom Kippur	10/8/2011	9/26/2012	9/14/2013	10/4/2014	9/23/2015
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/24/2011	11/22/2012	11/28/2013	11/27/2014	11/26/2015
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/10/2011	10/8/2012	10/14/2013	10/13/2014	10/12/2015
Christmas Day	12/25/2011	12/25/2012	12/25/2013	12/25/2014	12/25/2015

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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](mailto: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>.