

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

October 2019

Mars Science News

Findings from the MEPAG Virtual Meeting VM6 are posted

Findings from [MEPAG Meeting 37](#) (July 26, 2019 in Pasadena, CA) and [virtual meeting 6](#) (August 28, 2019) are posted under their respective meetings. The Findings from MEPAG 37 include statements on the importance of Mars Sample Return (MSR) but also opportunities to pursue high-priority Mars science beyond MSR, the importance of maintaining the martian communication infrastructure, recognition of the development progress that has occurred for missions slated to launch in 2020 and beyond, and the importance of maintaining support for productive ongoing missions. The Finding from VM6 focused on options for the generation and re-evaluation of the New Frontiers candidate mission list.

All of these Findings were presented by MEPAG Chair R. Aileen Yingst to the NASEM Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) during their September 10-12, 2019 meeting in Pasadena, CA. (Presentations from the CAPS meeting are not yet posted, but should become available at:

<https://www8.nationalacademies.org/pa/projectview.aspx?key=49864#MeetingId11320>.) She also has presented this information at the NASA Planetary Science Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting, held [September 23-24, 2019](#) in Washington DC.

NASA workshop: The PI Launchpad

NASA is interested in broadening the pool of potential NASA space mission PI's. If you are a researcher in any NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD) discipline who wants to take your career to the next level, but have not yet held a leadership position on mission proposals or large science teams, this is the workshop for you. Participants will go step-by-step through the process of developing a science case, defining requirements, building a team, securing partnerships, and obtaining support from the home institution.

People with potentially intersecting marginalized identities are strongly encouraged to apply. There is no cost to attend the workshop; travel, meals, and lodging for non-NASA participants will be covered by the Heising-Simons Foundation. Between 35-40 participants will be selected, and for those not selected, NASA plans to hold additional Launchpads in 2020 and beyond.

Applicants should be currently at US institutions. More details to come. Please watch: <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/pi-launchpad>

Applications due: **October 4, 2019**

Workshop: November 18-20, 2019 @ University of Arizona Campus, Tucson, AZ

Giant Mars map on display on the US National Mall, October 18-19

As part of AGU's Centennial celebration, Arizona State University (ASU) will display and allow people to walk around on the world's largest map of Mars on the U.S. National Mall between the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum and the Washington Monument. This event on October 18-19 is one of the ways to share the science by AGU members, particularly planetary scientists, with the public. The Mars map is the size of a basketball court and was made by combining more than 24,000 images taken by ASU's THEMIS camera onboard NASA's Mars Odyssey satellite. All "Martians" in the D.C. area, including International Astronautical Congress attendees (the conference starts on Oct 21), are welcomed to stop by and/or to invite their friends and family!

Mars-relevant Special Issues Welcoming Paper Submissions

- The journal *Life* (ISSN 2075-1729) is currently running a special issue titled "Planetary Exploration of Habitable Environments." Prof. Dr. Dirk Schulze-Makuch, Technical University of Berlin (Germany), and Dr. Alberto G. Fairén, Centro de Astrobiología (Madrid, Spain) and Cornell University (Ithaca, N.Y.), are serving as guest editors for this issue. For more information:

https://www.mdpi.com/si/life/Planetary_Exploration

Submission deadline: 15 October 2019

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
October 7	Mars Extant Life: What's Next? – Early Registration Deadline
October 11	Asteroid Science in the Age of Hayabusa 22 and OSIRIS-REX – Early Registration Deadline
October 21	VEXAG Meeting #17 – Registration Deadline
October 23	2nd RPI Space Imaging Workshop – Registration Deadline
October 23	Mars Extant Life: What's Next? – Registration Deadline
October 30	Seventh International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration – Abstract Deadline
October 30	4th COSPAR Symposium: Small Satellites for Sustainable Science and Development – Registration Deadline
October 30	Asteroid Science in the Age of Hayabusa 22 and OSIRIS-REX – Registration Deadline
November 11	First International Orbital Debris Conference (IOC) – Early Registration Deadline
November 13	Exoplanets in Our Backyard – Abstract Deadline
November 22	First International Orbital Debris Conference (IOC) – Registration Deadline
November 30	IEEE Aerospace Conference – Early Registration Deadline
December 5	3rd International Planetary Caves Conference – Abstract Deadline
December 9	Ground and Space Observatories - Abstract Deadline
December 10	Ice Giant Systems 2020 – Abstract Deadline
December 13	Seventh International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration – Early Registration Deadline
December 30	Seventh International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration – Abstract Deadline
December 30	Seventh International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration – Registration Deadline
December 31	36th International Geological Congress (IGC) – Abstract Deadline

Upcoming Conferences

- Only foreign and NASA-sponsored conferences will have an NCTS#; missing NCTS#s can be sent to Barbara Saltzberg (Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov).
- Forecasting to NCTS is usually 60 days in advance for domestic meetings. 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.

Fourth Quarter, 2019		
NEW	October 5, 2019	International Observe the Moon Night https://moon.nasa.gov/observe-the-moon/annual-event/overview
	October 14-15, 2019 Baltimore, MD, USA	Inclusive Astronomy 2 Conference https://outerspace.stsci.edu/display/IA2
NEW	October 18-19, 2019 Washington, DC, USA	Mars on The National Mall
	October 21-25, 2019 Washington, DC, USA	70th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) , NCTS 36775-20 https://www.iac2019.org/
	October 28-30, 2019 Saratoga Springs, NY, USA	2nd RPI Space Imaging Workshop NCTS 38392-19 http://seal.rpi.edu/workshop/2019
	October 28-30, 2019 Washington, DC USA	Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG) meeting https://www.lpi.usra.edu/leag/
	November 4-8, 2019 Herzliya, Israel	The 4th COSPAR Symposium: Small Satellites for Sustainable Science and Development , NCTS 37773-20 http://www.cospar2019.org/
	November 5-8, 2019 Carlsbad, NM, USA	Mars Extant Life: What's Next? https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lifeonmars2019/
	November 5-7, 2019 Tucson, AZ, USA	Asteroid Science in the Age of Hayabusa 22 and OSIRIS-REX https://corex.lpl.arizona.edu/international-workshop
	December 9-12, 2019 Sugar Land, TX, USA	First International Orbital Debris Conference (IOC) NCTS 38110-20 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/orbitaldebris2019/
	December 9-13, 2019 San Francisco, CA, USA	2019 AGU Fall Meeting , NCTS 37409-20 mailto:https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting

2020 First Quarter		
	January 6-8, 2020 Cambridge, England	KICC: Rocky Worlds: from the Solar System to Exoplanets https://www.kicc.cam.ac.uk/events/rocky-worlds-from-the-solar-system-to-exoplanets
	January 13-17, 2020 Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	7th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration NCTS 39128-20 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2020/
NEW	January 14-16, 2020 Pasadena, CA, USA	NASA Small Bodies Advisory Group (SBAG) meetin https://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/
	January 20-22, 2020 London, England	Ice Giants Systems 2020 NCTS 38573-20 https://ice-giants.github.io/
	February 5-7, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	Exoplanets in Our Backyard mailto:www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/exoplanets2020/
	February 11-13, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	LPI Workshop: The impact of lunar dust on human exploration https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunardust2020/
	February 18-21, 2020 San Antonio, TX, USA	3rd International Planetary Caves Conference https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/3rdcaves2020/
	March 2-6, 2020 Santiago, Chile	Ground and space observatories: a joint venture to planetary science workshop NCTS 39529-20 https://conference.almaobservatory.org/planets2020/
	March 2-8, 2020 Dehli, India	36th International Geological Congress (IGC) mailto:https://www.36igc.org/home
	March 7-14, 2020 Big Sky, MT, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference https://www.aeroconf.org/
	March 16-20, 2020 The Woodlands, TX, USA	51st Lunar and Planetary Science Conference https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2020/

Second Quarter, 2020		
	April 20-23, 2020 Seattle, WA, USA	ASCE Earth & Space Conference Symposium 2: Exploration and Utilization of Extra-Terrestrial Bodies https://www.earthspaceconference.org/symposium-2
	May 3-8, 2020 Les Houches, France	Workshop Mars V https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/planet-mars-5/home
	May 12-15, 2020 Alamosa, CO, USA	6th International Planetary Dunes Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/
	June 2-4, 2020 Orleans, France	Mercury 2020, Current and future science of the innermost planet https://mercury2020.ias.u-psud.fr/main_1st.php
NEW	June 8-11, 2020 Paris, France	7th Mars Atmosphere Modelling and Observations http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2020/

Third-Fourth Quarter, 2020		
	July, 2020	Launch window for the UAE EMM orbiter (Hope)
	July 26-August 11, 2020	Launch window for the ESA-Russia ExoMars rover (Rosalind Franklin)
	July 17-August 5, 2020	Launch window for the NASA Mars 2020 rover
	August 15-22, 2020 Sydney, Australia	43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly NCTS 35724-20 https://www.cospar-assembly.org/
	October 5-8, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	Martian Enigmas 2020 mailto:https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigmas2020/

Seasons on Mars

	MY34	MY35	MY36
Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0	03/23/2019	02/07/2021	12/26/2022
Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90	10/08/2019	08/25/2021	07/13/2023
Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180	04/08/2020	02/24/2022	01/24/2024
Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270	09/02/2020	07/21/2022	06/07/2024

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Good Friday	4/19/2019	4/10/20	4/2/2021	04/15/2022
Rosh Hashanah	9/30/2019	9/19/20	9/7/2021	09/26/2022
Yom Kippur	10/09/2019	9/28/20	9/16/2021	10/05/2022
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/14/2019	10/12/20	10/11/2021	10/10/2022
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/28/2019	11/26/20	11/25/2021	11/24/2022
Christmas Day	12/25/2019	12/25/20	12/25/2021	12/25/2022

Editors

David Beaty
 Serina Diniega
 Barbara Saltzberg

David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov
Serina.Diniega@jpl.nasa.gov
Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov

818-354-7968
 818-354-1487
 818-354-0226

Please send Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's newsletter to:
 Barbara Saltzberg at Barbara.a.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov
 This newsletter (and all previous months') is also posted on the MEPAG website: <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>

If you wish to withdraw from the electronic mailing list this newsletter is sent out to, please send an email from your email account to mepag-removesignup@jpl.nasa.gov.

To be added to this list and receive this monthly newsletter and other Mars Science announcements, or to update your MEPAG directory information (which contains the email list used for sending out this newsletter), please fill out the online form: mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov (also linked at the bottom of the MEPAG website <http://mepag.nasa.gov/>).