

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

September 2015

## Mars Science News

### ***Mars Critical Data Products Program, round X - RFP posted for Mars 2020 Landing Site Characterization***

The Mars Exploration Program has issued, in August 2015, a Request for Proposal for round X of the Mars Critical Data Products program (<http://mepag.nasa.gov/cdp.cfm>). This RFP provides support for landing site surface and atmosphere characterization for the Mars 2020 rover mission. The intent is to convert mission data and numerical simulations into products focused on specific landing site targets (to be provided by the program) that will be useful for reducing the risk to the Mars 2020 rover mission. Requested data products are for (1) Radar Reflectivity, (2) Surface Thermophysical Properties, (3) Surface Pressure Predictions, and (4) Dust Events during Mars 2020 Entry Descent and Landing (EDL).

Proposals are due **Wednesday, October 14, 2015**. Details of this RFP are posted at: <https://acquisition.jpl.nasa.gov/rfp/NT-2692-081715/default.htm> or <https://acquisition.jpl.nasa.gov/bizops/>

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### ***Abstract deadline extended for the 1st Landing Site/Exploration Zone Workshop for Human Missions to Mars***

October 27-30, 2015

Lunar Planetary Institute (LPI), Houston TX

The purpose of this workshop is to identify and discuss candidate locations where humans could land, live and work on the martian surface. NASA hopes to engage scientists, technologists and experts in human exploration during the conference, fostering collaboration among the teams that will enable humans to explore Mars in the coming decades.

For More Information: <http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/explorationzone2015/>

**The deadline for abstracts has been extended until Thursday, September 10, 2015, 5:00 p.m. U.S. CDT.** Until that date, those who have already submitted an abstract can replace/edit submitted information.

The deadline for registration applications is **October 1, 2015**. Limited support for travel will be made available for U.S. participants. Details will be posted on the workshop website as soon as they become available.

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### ***Landing Site list and results are posted, from the 2nd Landing Site Workshop for the Mars 2020 Rover***

Over 150 scientists attended the Second Landing Site Workshop for the 2020 Mars Rover mission, held August 4-6, 2015. (Another ~50 people viewed the workshop online.) The primary goal of the second workshop was to evaluate the ~30 candidate landing sites that emerged from the first workshop as well as any new sites proposed, and to downselect to ~8 sites. The workshop agenda, presentations, and results are available at: <http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov/>.

## SSERVI "Planetary Evolution: Phobos and Deimos" lecture series

Online, Mondays at 3-4:30pm ET, September 14-December 7

NASA's Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI) announces the "Planetary Evolution: Phobos and Deimos" lecture series, organized by Dan Britt and Carle Pieters. Talks will be broadcast online every Monday at 3pm ET at:

<https://connect.arc.nasa.gov/marsmoons/> (The same link will be used for each seminar, active 30 mins before each talk).

All talks will be archived at:

<http://sservi.nasa.gov/event/planetary-evolution-phobos-and-deimos/>

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

Due	Project
September 10	<b>First Landing Site/Exploration Zone Workshop for Human Missions to the Surface of Mars</b> , Extended Abstract deadline
September 15	<b>Missions to Habitable Worlds</b> , Registration deadline
September 28	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b> , Registration deadline
October 6	<b>Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group</b> , Registration deadline
October 15	<b>Request for Proposal for round X of the Mars Critical Data Products program</b> Proposal deadline

### A note about "conferences" and this calendar of events

- "Conference" organizers: if we do not have it listed and you know this information, please forward the NCTS# (along with forecasting deadline, if known) to Meredith Cosby ([Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov)).
- Forecasters: when no deadline is noted, it is usually 90days in advance — sometimes further in advance if the conference is "Heavily Attended." Also, please do not assume our noting of NCTS# is complete. If you are unsure if an event is a conference or not, or when the forecasting deadline may be, please consult with your NASA Center conference forecasting/travel unit.

## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Third Quarter, 2015		
	September 3, 2015 Pasadena, CA	<b>Mars 2001 Odyssey PSG</b>
<b>Updated: remote access</b>	September 8-11, 2015 Moffett Field, CA, USA	<b>Comparative Climates of Terrestrial Planets II</b> <a href="http://cctp2.arc.nasa.gov/">http://cctp2.arc.nasa.gov/</a> , NCTS# 22053-15 The meeting will be streamed live via Adobe Connect, at: <a href="https://ac.arc.nasa.gov/cctp2/">https://ac.arc.nasa.gov/cctp2/</a> Program: <a href="http://sservi3.arc.nasa.gov/downloads/cctp2_program.pdf">http://sservi3.arc.nasa.gov/downloads/cctp2_program.pdf</a>
	September 16-17, 2015 Irvine, CA, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b>
	September 21-26, 2015 Freiberg, GERMANY	<b>The Bridging the Gap III: Impact Cratering in Nature, Experiments and Modeling</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/gap2015/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/gap2015/</a>
	September 27-October 2, 2015 Nantes, FRANCE	<b>European Planetary Science Congress</b> <a href="http://www.epsc2015.eu/home.html">http://www.epsc2015.eu/home.html</a> , NCTS# 21623-15

## Fourth Quarter, 2015

	October 6-9, 2015 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>European Astrobiology Network Association (EANA15)</b> <a href="http://www.eana-net.eu/Conferences/EANA2015.html">http://www.eana-net.eu/Conferences/EANA2015.html</a>
	October 20-22, 2015 Columbia, MD	<b>2015 Meeting of Lunar Exploration Analysis Group</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2015/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2015/</a> , NCTS# 23063-16
	October 20-23, 2015 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	<b>2nd International Planetary Caves Conference</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/2ndcaves2015/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/2ndcaves2015/</a> , NCTS# 23191-16
	October 20-22, 2015 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>Third ExoMars 2018 Landing Site Selection Workshop</b> <a href="http://exploration.esa.int/mars/55991-third-exomars-2018-landing-site-selection-workshop/">http://exploration.esa.int/mars/55991-third-exomars-2018-landing-site-selection-workshop/</a>
<b>New!</b>	October 20-22, 2015 Columbia, MD	<b>Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2015/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2015/</a> , NCTS# 23063-16
	October 27-29, 2015 Washington DC, USA	<b>13th Meeting of the Venus Exploration Analysis Group</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/upcoming/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/upcoming/</a> , NCTS# 22676-16
	October 27-30, 2015 Houston, TX, USA	<b>First Landing Site/Exploration Zone Workshop for Human Missions to the Surface of Mars</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/explorationzone2015/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/explorationzone2015/</a> , NCTS# 23273-16
	October 28-29, 2015 Budapest, HUNGARY	<b>Missions to Habitable Worlds</b> <a href="http://life-origins2015.csfk.mta.hu/">http://life-origins2015.csfk.mta.hu/</a>
	November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b> <a href="http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2015/home">http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2015/home</a> , NCTS# 22522-16
	November 8-13, 2015 National Harbor, MD, USA	<b>47th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS 2015)</b> <a href="http://aas.org/meetings/dps47">http://aas.org/meetings/dps47</a> , NCTS# 22069-16
	November 9-13, 2015 Foz do Iguacu, BRAZIL	<b>2nd Symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2015): Water and Life in the Universe</b>
	December 9-10, 2015 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting</b>
	December 14-18, 2015 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2015/">http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2015/</a> , NCTS# 22185-16
<b>New!</b>	December 15-16, 2015 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>International Symposium on Moon 2020-2030: A New Era of Coordinated Human and Robotic Exploration</b> <a href="http://spaceflight.esa.int/humanrobotics/">http://spaceflight.esa.int/humanrobotics/</a>

### First Quarter, 2016

	January 7, 2016	<b>20-Day ExoMars Launch Period Opens</b>
	March 4, 2016	<b>20-Day Insight Launch Window Opens</b>
	March 5-12, 2016 Big Sky, MT, USA	<b>IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> <a href="http://www.aeroconf.org/">http://www.aeroconf.org/</a> , NCTS# 22854-16
	March 21-25, 2016 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC)</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2016/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2016/</a> , NCTS# 23351-16
	March 29-31, 2016 Washington DC, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b>

### Second Quarter, 2016

	April 4-8, 2016 Oxford, UK	<b>International Venus Conference</b> <a href="http://venus2016.uk/">http://venus2016.uk/</a>
	April 11-15, 2016 Orlando, FL, USA	<b>ASCE Earth and Space 2016 Conference:</b> 15th Biennial ASCE International Conference on Engineering, Science, Construction, and Operations in Challenging Environments <a href="http://earthspaceconf.mst.edu/">http://earthspaceconf.mst.edu/</a> , NCTS# 23397-16 Of particular interest -- <i>Symposium 1</i> : Granular Materials in Space Exploration, <i>Symposium 2</i> : Exploration and Utilization of Extraterrestrial Bodies
	April 12-15, 2016 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	<b>Water in the Universe: From Clouds to Oceans</b> <a href="http://www.congrexprojects.com/2016-events/16a06">http://www.congrexprojects.com/2016-events/16a06</a>
	May 24-25, 2016 Oxford, UK	<b>iCubeSat 2016, the 5th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop</b> <a href="http://icubesat.org/">http://icubesat.org/</a>

### Third-Fourth Quarters, 2016

	July 30-August 7, 2016 Istanbul, TURKEY	<b>41st Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2016) and Associated Events</b> <a href="http://www.cospar-assembly.org">http://www.cospar-assembly.org</a>
	August 7-12, 2016 Berlin, GERMANY	<b>Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society</b>
	September 5-9, 2016 Reykjavik, ICELAND	<b>6th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration</b>
	September 14-15, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b>
	September 28, 2016	<b>Insight Arrival at Mars</b>
	October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting</b>
	October 19, 2016	<b>ExoMars 2016 (TGO and EDM) Arrival at Mars</b>

## Seasons on Mars

	MY33	MY34	MY35
Start of Northern Spring / L <sub>s</sub> 0	6/18/2015	5/05/2017	3/23/2019
Start of Northern Summer / L <sub>s</sub> 90	1/03/2016	11/20/2017	10/08/2019
Start of Northern Autumn / L <sub>s</sub> 180	7/04/2016	5/22/2018	4/08/2020
Start of Northern Winter / L <sub>s</sub> 270	11/28/2016	10/16/2018	9/02/2020

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

Good Friday	4/3/2015	3/25/2016	4/14/2017	3/30/2018
Rosh Hashanah	9/14/2015	9/16/2016	9/20/2017	9/10/2018
Yom Kippur	9/23/2015	9/25/2016	9/29/2017	9/19/2018

(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)

Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/12/2015	10/8/2016	10/9/2017	10/8/2018
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/26/2015	11/22/2016	11/23/2017	11/22/2018
Christmas Day	12/25/2015	12/25/2016	12/25/2017	12/25/2018

## Editors

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

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All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at:

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