

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

Issue: August 2009

Mars Science News

To Members of the Mars Science Community,

The NRC's Decadal Survey has called for white papers of up to 7 pages in length of relevance to planetary exploration (<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/ssb/SSEdecadal2011.html>). They have also strongly encouraged the involvement/support of multiple members of the community in each white paper to reflect important consensus positions, rather than the submission of multiple single-authored documents. Given the practicalities of the large number of Mars scientists, at the MEPAG meeting last week we agreed to the following strategy to support this process:

- The MEPAG web site (<http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/decadal/index.html>) will be used to help make the set of Mars-related white papers under preparation by different sectors of the Mars community known, and available to the community for review and consideration.
- It is most appropriate to list as authors of these documents the folks who substantively contribute to a document's formulation.
- Members of the community are invited to endorse the white papers as "signatories". The signatory list will either be carried on the cover sheets of the various white papers, or if too long, will be maintained in a separate supporting file (e.g. on the MEPAG web site). It is of course permitted and encouraged for members of the community to endorse more than one white paper - these documents cover independent aspects of Mars exploration. The NRC's deadline for white paper submission is September 15, 2009, so your action on this will be needed by about September 1.
- We have set up a web-based process to help collect and manage the signatory lists (<http://mepag/decadal/endorse.html>).
- Some formal MEPAG white papers will be presented under the authorship of the MEPAG Chair on behalf of the entire organization - for these, signatories will not be requested.

For credibility, please read the paper (not just title!) before endorsing.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jack Mustard, MEPAG Chair

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
8/4	OSEWG 2009 Workshop on Robots Supporting Human Science and Exploration advance registration deadline
8/13	Workshop on the Microstructure of the Martian Surface advance registration deadline
8/17	ISPRS Workshop Commission IV/7... abstracts deadline
8/18	ASCE Earth and Space 2010 Conference abstracts deadline
8/25	8th IAA International Conference on LCPM registration deadline
9/1	Joint ESA-ASI Workshop on Methane on Mars abstracts deadline
9/1	GRSG AGM 2009 abstracts deadline
9/3	AGU Fall Meeting abstracts deadline
9/5	50th Vernadsky-Brown Microsymposium abstracts deadline
9/8	41st Annual DPS Meeting late abstracts deadline
9/9	The Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) abstracts deadline
9/10	LEAG 2009 abstracts deadline
9/23	12th Mars Crater Consortium Meeting abstracts deadline
10/27	Ground-Based Geophysics on the Moon Conference abstracts deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Third Quarter, 2009</i>		
	August 5-6, 2009 Houston, Texas, USA	OSEWG 2009 Workshop on Robots Supporting Human Science and Exploration Advance registration deadline August 4, 2009 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/osewq2009/
	August 11-15, 2009 SINGAPORE	6th Annual General Meeting of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society 16 Sessions in Planetary Sciences covering various topics that include interiors, oceans, surfaces, atmospheres, ionospheres, magnetospheres of planets, satellites, comets, minor bodies..... Session details at: http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2009/public.asp?page=mars/confSessionList.asp Conference: http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2009/
	August 2009 Grenoble, FRANCE	IEEE GRSS Workshop on Hyperspectral Image and Signal Processing http://www.ieee-whispers.com/
	August 24-26, 2009 Washington, DC, USA	Decadal Survey - First Satellites Panel Meeting National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW
	August 24-26, 2009 Washington, DC, USA	Decadal Survey - First Giant Planets Panel Meeting National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW
	August 26-28, 2009 Washington, DC, USA	Decadal Survey - First Inner Planets Panel Meeting National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW
	August 27-29, 2009 Copenhagen, DENMARK	Workshop on the Microstructure of the Martian Surface University of Copenhagen Advance registration deadline August 13, 2009 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/marsmicro2009/

	August 31-September 4, 2009 Goa, INDIA	8th IAA International Conference on Low Cost Planetary Missions (LCPM) Registration deadline August 25, 2009 Details at: http://lcpm8.isro.gov.in
	September 9-11, 2009 Washington, DC, USA	Decadal Survey - First Primitive Bodies Panel Meeting National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW
	September 9-11, 2009 Tempe, Arizona, USA	Decadal Survey - First Mars Panel Meeting Arizona State University
	September 13-18, 2009 Potsdam, GERMANY	European Planetary Science Congress http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc2009/information/index.html
	September 15-17, 2009 Moffett Field, California, USA	MARS DUST CYCLE WORKSHOP The Martian climate system is characterized in terms of the seasonal cycles of dust, water, and CO ₂ , which are coupled and driven by the general circulation. Recent workshops have focused on the water and CO ₂ cycles, but a workshop focused on the dust cycle, perhaps the most complex component of the climate system overall, has not been held since the post Viking data analysis programs of the 1980's. Given the enormous volume of data acquired since then, as well as the advances in modeling and laboratory methods, the time is right to hold a workshop focused on dust cycle. This workshop seeks to understand the global behavior of dust in the atmosphere by focusing on its lifting, transport, and deposition in the present climate regime. http://humbabe.arc.nasa.gov/MarsDustWorkshop/DustHome.html Convenor: Robert M. Haberle (NASA/Ames) Robert.M.Haberle@nasa.gov
	September 18-19, 2009 Berlin, GERMANY	ISPRS Workshop Commission IV/7 Planetary Mapping and Databases – Results from Current Missions Abstracts deadline August 17, 2009 http://www.igg.tu-berlin.de/ISPRS/workshop_6-7
	September 20-23, 2009 Alghero, Sardegna, ITALY	International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) Meeting Session T7: Sedimentology and Stratigraphy in the inner and Outer Solar System. Field trip FT5: Tunisian desert: a perfect place to simulate landing on Mars. http://www.ias2009.com/
	September 21-23, 2009 Irvine, CA, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Satellites Panel Meeting National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	September 28, 2009 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	Lunar Crater Consortium Meeting At the US Geological Survey Contact: Nadine Barlow at Nadine.Barlow@nau.edu http://www.lunarcraterconsortium.nau.edu/
	September 29-30, 2009 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	12th Mars Crater Consortium Meeting At the US Geological Survey Abstracts deadline September 23, 2009 Contact Nadine Barlow at Nadine.Barlow@nau.edu http://www.marscraterconsortium.nau.edu
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2009</i>		
	October 2009	Call for Additional MSL Landing Sites (Potentially add one more)
	October 1, 2009 Pasadena, CA, USA	Next 2001 Mars Odyssey PSG Meeting Contact Jeff Plaut (Jeffrey.J.Plaut@jpl.nasa.gov)

	October 4–9, 2009 Fajardo, Puerto Rico, USA	41st Annual DPS Meeting http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html Abstracts deadline: July 22, 2009 Late abstracts deadline: September 8, 2009, 5:00 PM EDT / 21:00 UTC The El Conquistador Resort (meeting site) is now open for reservations. Deadline for reserving hotel rooms at the meeting rate: September 7, 2009
	October 12-14, 2009 Brussels, BELGIUM	9th European Workshop on Astrobiology EANA'09 http://www.exobiologie.be/eana/ Contact: Christian Muller (Christian.muller@aeronomie.be)
	October 12-14, 2009 Moscow, RUSSIA	50th Vernadsky-Brown Microsymposium This microsymposium will cover multiple topics in planetary science, with the last day devoted to the analysis of the Martian satellite Phobos. Sponsored by the Russian Foundation of Basic Research. Abstracts deadline September 5, 2009 Contacts: Alexander Basilevsky (atbas@geokhi.ru) and James W. Head (James_Head_III@Brown.edu) See web site for further details: http://www.planetology.ru/micro.php
	October 12-16, 2009 Daejeon, SOUTH KOREA	60th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) http://www.iac2009.kr/
	12-16 October 2009 Tuscany, ITALY	GEOLOGICAL MAPPING OF MARS: A WORKSHOP ON NEW CONCEPTS AND TOOLS (12-14 October) and FIELD TRIP ON THE GEOLOGY OF TUSCANY (15 – 16 October) The workshop will focus on three currently evolving aspects to planetary geological mapping: (1) the identification and mapping of geological units and features, (2) the digital tools that provide an efficient way to assemble data and map the surface, and (3) the extension of surface contact mapping into the subsurface and in a 3D environment. Contact: Gian Gabriele Ori [ggori@irsps.unich.it] http://www.irsps.unich.it/education/mapping09
	October 18–21, 2009 Portland, Oregon, USA	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	October 20-22, 2009 Laurel, MD, USA	(NASA) 3-Day Training Course on Planetary Protection "Planetary Protection: Policies and Practices" Designed to familiarize current and future practitioners with NASA, ESA, and COSPAR planetary protection programs. Enrollment: 20 participants - Contact: tasalb@msn.com http://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/pp/course/index.htm
	October 26-28, 2009 Irvine, CA, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Inner Planets Panel Meeting National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	October 26-28, 2009 Irvine, CA, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Giant Planets Panel Meeting National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	October 28-29, 2009 Irvine, CA, USA	VEXAG Meeting On Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, in conjunction with the Next Decadal Survey Panel Meetings
	October 28-30, 2009 Irvine, CA, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Primitive Bodies Panel Meeting National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	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.

	November 4-6, 2009 Pasadena, CA, 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, CA, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Planetary Science Steering Group National Academies' Beckman Center (Huntington Room). http://www7.nationalacademies.org/beckman/
	November 16-19, 2009 Houston, TX, USA	Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG 2009) at the Lunar and Planetary Institute Abstracts deadline September 10, 2009 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/ Abstract submission deadline: September 1, 2009 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/arsg2009
	December 14–18, 2009 San Francisco, California, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/ Abstract submissions will be open by July 30, 2009. See web site for details of the new abstract system. Abstract deadline is September 3, 2009.
<i>First Quarter, 2010</i>		
	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. Abstract submission deadline: September 9, 2009 http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&program=origin http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&program=grs_origin
	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 Abstraction submission deadline: October 27, 2009 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

	March 17-18, 2010 Monrovia, CA, USA	MEPAG #22 Contacts: Charles Budney (Charles.j.budney@jpl.nasa.gov) and Joyce Pulliam (Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov)
	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, HI, 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. Abstracts submission deadline: August 18, 2009 http://content.asce.org/conferences/earthspace2010/index.html
<i>Second Quarter, 2010</i>		
	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. Conference web site will be posted through LPI.
	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 3-6, 2010 Monastir, TUNISIA	Astronomical Data Analysis (ADA6) http://www.aset.org.tn/conf/ADA6
	June 12-13, 2010 Barcelona, SPAIN	Planetary Protection Short Course http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 14-18, 2010 Barcelona, SPAIN	7th International Planetary Probe Workshop 2009 (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, NY, USA	73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Dr. Denton Ebel http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	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/
	October 18-22, 2010 Madison, Wisconsin, 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
	July 2011 Pasadena, California, USA	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology
	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.33iqc.org/

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>.