

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

February 2015

Mars Science News

Conference forecasts needed for 30th MEPAG Meeting

February 24-25, 2015

Monrovia, CA (Los Angeles area)

The organizers have just discovered that the MEPAG meeting has been designated as a conference, so **forecasting is necessary**. If you generally forecast your travel to conferences and intend to attend this meeting, please take action:

- If you are a JPLer or your travel will be paid through a JPL project — email Lindsay Hays (Lindsay.E.Hays@jpl.nasa.gov) by **COB Tues Feb 3**, with subject line “MEPAG meeting” and including your standard travel accounting information (e.g., if applicable: project/task number). JPL has been given a one-time waiver for late additions to this meeting. If you previously RSVPed to Carla de la Paz, your name has been added to the JPL list but we may still need your travel accounting information.
- If you are a NASA employee, please contact your institution’s travel coordinators about late addition to the NASA forecasting system. The NCTS# for this meeting is 21500-15.

The second announcement for this meeting has been posted at <http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m30>. We plan to post a draft agenda by the end of the week. This meeting is open to all members of the Mars science community, including international colleagues. Special topics for discussion at this meeting are:

- MEP status—hear from the new MEP Director on the present state and future of MEP
- Interaction with the Human program (HEOMD)
- NASA and ESA landing site selection activities
- Proposed revision of the MEPAG Goals document based on recent progress
- NASA and ESA landing site selection activities
- Recent scientific results from the Mars missions

Hotel room block: Through **February 9th**, a block of rooms is being held at the rate of \$138.00 per night plus tax. These rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To make a reservation, call the DoubleTree directly at 626-357-1900 or toll-free at 877-361-5743 and refer to the group “JPL – MEPAG Face to Face.”

Second Landing Site Workshop for the Mars 2020 Rover

August 4-6, 2015

Pasadena, CA (venue TBD)

This workshop will focus on further evaluation of candidate sites introduced at the first workshop (May 2014) as well as new candidate sites. The candidate landing sites emerging from this workshop will then be considered in more detail by the 2020 Project, Mars Program, and the Science Community. New sites may be proposed and discussed at the workshop, with the expectation that such new sites will be based in part on discoveries related to new data from MRO. Future workshops (beyond 2015) would further narrow the list of sites under consideration to a recommended landing site zone and (eventually) precise landing ellipse. ohn Grant and Matt Golombek, Co-Chairs of the Mars Landing Site Steering Committee, encourage all members of the scientific community to participate in this activity, as robust input from the science community is critical to identifying the optimal landing site for the 2020 rover. The workshop announcement and results from the first workshop are posted on the Mars 2020 landing site website: <http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov>.

Mars Student Travel Grants available for upcoming meetings

Student travel grants are available for two workshops in May: (1) the [Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces](#) (May 19-22 in Laurel, MD; due March 5) and (2) the [Fourth International Planetary Dunes Workshop](#) (2) (May 19-22 in Boise, ID; due March 5). These opportunities are open to undergraduate and graduate students with Mars-related research interests, who are US citizens or legal residents. Information and the applications are posted on the MEPAG site:

<http://mepag.nasa.gov/student.cfm?expand=student>. Questions should be directed to Serina Diniega: serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov.

Second Workshop on Potential Mars Returned Sample Science, pre-LPSC

The Woodlands, TX; Sunday, March 15

The Second Annual Workshop on Potential Mars Returned Sample Science will be held on Sunday March 15th as a peripheral meeting to LPSC, in The Woodlands conference room. This meeting will be an opportunity for scientists interested in the investigation of geological samples from Mars to 1) Stay up to date on current planning related to the possibility of returning samples from Mars, and 2) Discuss current issues and questions for which broad, multi-disciplinary input is needed. The first workshop in this series (2014) focused specifically on developing inputs to NASA's requirements for the Mars 2020 rover related to sample quality. The agenda this year will have a broader focus, including: final reporting on sample quality requirements, planning related to sample management if Mars samples are returned to Earth, sample-related technology planning (including advanced curation), and possibly sample-related planetary protection questions. Anyone wishing to indicate interest in attending or with questions about this workshop is encouraged to contact Dr. Lindsay Hays (Lindsay.E.Hays@jpl.nasa.gov).

User Workshop for Mars CHEMCAM/LIBS Data, at LPSC

The Woodlands, TX; Wednesday, March 18, 6pm

ChemCam on Curiosity provides a large and varied geochemical dataset available for the planetary community including laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS), passive VIS reflectance spectra, and the highest resolution remote micro-images (RMI) from the rover. A 2-1/2-hour workshop will be held at 6 pm Wednesday, March 18, in the Indian Springs room of the Woodlands Waterway Marriott during the week of LPSC for community members interested in using this dataset. We will describe the LIBS technique as used on ChemCam and data processing for the levels 1 and 2 provided in the PDS, and will provide updates on the latest calibration data. No RSVP is needed. Meeting space is limited, so be on time or early. Please see the ChemCam website for updates: <http://msl-chemcam.com>; contact is Roger Wiens (rwiens@lanl.gov). The ChemCam data can be found at <http://pds-geosciences.wustl.edu/missions/msl/chemcam.htm>. Presentation materials will be posted on the PDS.

Planetary GIS Workshop

May 5-7, 2015 at ESAC, Madrid, Spain

ESA and its Planetary Science Archive (PSA) User Group are pleased to announce a Planetary GIS Workshop that will be held on May 5-7 2015 at ESAC (Madrid, Spain). The following broad areas will be presented and discussed:

- scientific needs and uses (existing, new, cross-disciplinary);
- existing technical solutions;

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
February 18, 2015	Japanese Geoscience Union (JpGU) Abstract deadline
February 22, 2015	46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference Early registration deadline
February 26, 2015	Comparative Tectonics and Geodynamics of Venus, Earth, and Rocky Exoplanets Abstract deadline
February 28, 2015	5th PCL Focus Days 2015 Author registration deadline
March 2, 2015	11th IAA Low-Cost Planetary Mission Conference, LCPM-II Abstract deadline
March 4, 2015	Astrobiology Science Conference 2015 (Abscon) Abstract deadline
March 5, 2015	Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces Abstract deadline 4th International Planetary Dunes Workshop Abstract deadline
March 12, 2015	European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2015 Early registration deadline
March 16, 2015	Venus Science Priorities Workshop for Laboratory Measurements and Instrument Definition Early registration deadline
April 1, 2015	iCubeSat 2015: 4th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop Abstract deadline
April 2, 2015	Goldschmidt 2015 Abstract deadline
April 3, 2015	12th International Planetary Probe Workshop Abstract deadline
April 4, 2015	11th IAA Low-Cost Planetary Mission Conference, LCPM-II Early registration deadline
April 13, 2015	2nd annual NASA Exploration Science Forum (ESF) , Abstract deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

First Quarter, 2015		
	February 4-6, 2015 Houston, TX, USA	Workshop on the Early Solar System Bombardment III http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/bombardment2015/
	February 24-25, 2015 Monrovia, CA, USA	30th MEPAG Meeting http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m30
	February 24-26, 2015 Kennedy Space Center, FL, USA	Planetary Protection Workshop http://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/course
	March 2-5, 2015 Santiago, CHILE	Ground and space observatories: a joint venture to planetary science http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2015/Planets2015.html
	March 7-14, 2015 Big Sky, MT, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference http://www.aeroconf.org/
	March 11-12, 2015 Location TBA	Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting For more information, contact Håkan Svedhem: hsvedhem@esa.int
	March 16-20, 2015 The Woodlands, TX, USA	46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2015/
	March 24-26, 2015 Moffett Field, CA, USA	Planetary Protection Knowledge Gaps for Human Extraterr. Missions Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/ppw2015/
	March 31-April 2, 2015 Washington DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)

Second Quarter, 2015

	April 7-8 2015 Hampton, VA, USA	Venus Science Priorities Workshop for Laboratory Measurements and Instrument Definition http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/venustech2015/
New!	April 9, 2015 Hampton, VA, USA	12th Meeting of the Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/
	April 12-17, 2015 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2015 http://www.egu2015.eu/home.html
	April 28-29, 2015 Wachtberg, GERMANY	5th PCL Focus Days 2015 http://workshops.fhr.fraunhofer.de/pclfocusdays/
	May 4-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	Comparative Tectonics and Geodynamics of Venus, Earth, and Rocky Exoplanets http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/geodyn2015/
	May 5-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	Improving Space Operations Workshop https://info.aiaa.org/tac/SMG/SOSTC/Lists/Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=53&Source=https%3A%2F%2Finfo%2Eaiaa%2Eorg%2Ftac%2FSMG%2FSOSTC%2Fdefault%2Easpx
	May 5-7, 2015 Washington, DC, USA	Humans to Mars Summit http://h2m.exploremars.org/
	May 19-22, 2015 Boise, ID, USA	4th International Planetary Dunes Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2015/
	May 19-22, 2015 Laurel, MD, USA	Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/craterstats2015/
New!	May 24-28, 2015 Chiba, JAPAN	Japanese Geoscience Union (JpGU) http://www.jpгу.org/meeting_e/
	May 26-27, 2015 London, UK	iCubeSat 2015: 4th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop http://iCubeSat.org
	June 1-4, 2015 Kazan, RUSSIA	Second IAPS Scientific Assembly: Observation and Understanding of the Moon, moons & Planets http://kpfu.ru/astrogeokazan-iaps-2015.html
	June 9-11, 2015 Berlin, GERMANY	11th IAA Low-Cost Planetary Mission Conference (LCPM-11) http://www.dlr.de/LCPM11
	June 15-19, 2015 Cologne, GERMANY	12th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-12) http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 15-19, 2015 Chicago, IL, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference 2015 (Abscon) http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2015/

Third Quarter, 2015

New!	July 21-23, 2015 Moffett Field, CA, USA	2nd annual NASA Exploration Science Forum (ESF) http://sservi.nasa.gov/NESF2015/
	July 27-31, 2015 Berkeley, CA, USA	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society http://metsoc2015.ssl.berkeley.edu/
	August 4-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	2nd Landing Site Workshop for the Mars 2020 Rover http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov/

Third Quarter, 2015—con't

	August 16-21, 2015 Prague, CZ	Goldschmidt 2015 http://goldschmidt.info/2015/
	September 16-17, 2015 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	September 27-October 2, 2015 Nantes, FRANCE	European Planetary Science Congress http://www.epsc2015.eu/home.html

Fourth Quarter, 2015

	November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
	November 8-13, 2015 National Harbor, MD, USA	47th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS 2015)
	November 9-13, 2015 Foz do Iguacu, BRAZIL	2nd Symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2015): Water and Life in the Universe
	December 14-18, 2015 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting

First and Second Quarters, 2016

	January 7, 2016	20-Day ExoMars Launch Period Opens
	March 4, 2016	20-Day Insight Launch Window Opens
	March 29-31, 2016 Washington DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	April 4-8, 2016 Oxford, UK	International Venus Conference http://venus2016.uk/

Third and Fourth Quarters, 2016

	July 30-August 7, 2016 Istanbul, TURKEY	41st Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2016) and Associated Events http://www.cospar-assembly.org
	August 7-12, 2016 Berlin, GERMANY	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society
	September 14-15, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	September 28, 2016	Insight Arrival at Mars
	October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting
	October 19, 2016	ExoMars Arrival at Mars

Seasons on Mars

	MY33	MY34	MY35
Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0	6/18/2015	5/05/2017	3/23/2019
Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90	1/03/2016	11/20/2017	10/08/2019
Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180	7/04/2016	5/22/2018	4/08/2020
Start of Northern Winter / L_s 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

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

Carla de la Paz at paz@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-354-3160.

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

<http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>

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