

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

Issue: February 2011

Next MEPAG meeting June 16-17, 2011, Lisbon, Portugal

Mars Science News

“MARS WEEK” IN EUROPE

We are pleased that the announcement and the call for papers for **The International Conference on Exploring Mars Habitability** is now online at: <http://www.congrex.nl/11a14/>

The conference will be held at the Tivoli Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, on **June 13-15, 2011**. The conference will begin after lunch on Monday, June 13, and will run for 2.5 days through the end of the day on Wednesday, June 15. The conference will be immediately followed by the first International Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group meeting (MEPAG #24), **June 16-17** at the same venue. All participants in the Habitability Conference are strongly encouraged to stay for the MEPAG meeting.

Finally, a post-meeting field trip to the important Mars analog site at Rio Tinto, Spain, is planned for **June 17-19**.

Note that the abstract deadline is February 11, 2011.

We hope to see you in beautiful Lisboa in June!

With best regards,
Conference Conveners

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
2/1	9th IAA Low Cost Planetary Missions Conference abstracts deadline
2/1	IUG/IAMAS General Assembly abstracts deadline
2/11	International Conference on Mars Habitability abstracts deadline
2/19	ISSOL Joint International Conference abstracts deadline
2/23	Conf. on Micro-Raman Spectroscopy..... (CORALS II) abstracts deadline
2/25	Workshop on the Importance of Solar System Sample Return..... registration deadline
2/28	AbGradCon 2011 abstracts deadline
3/15	AOGS 2011 abstracts deadline
3/18	Solar System Science Before and After Gaia abstracts deadline
3/22	A Wet vs. Dry Moon.... abstracts deadline
4/15	Goldschmidt 2011 abstracts deadline
4/18	European Astrobiology Network Association (EANA) abstracts deadline
4/30	2nd PTMSS/SRR abstracts deadline
5/31	EPSC-DPS 2011 abstracts deadline

Final MSL Landing Site Workshop

You are invited to participate in the fifth and final landing site workshop for the 2011 Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) mission. The workshop will be held in the vicinity of Pasadena, CA, on May 16-18, 2011, and is expected to focus on fleshing out a set of testable hypotheses and possible traverse paths for the rover for each site. The workshop will include sessions with talks emerging from advance studies by the Project science and engineering teams, as well as those submitted to the workshop from the science community. There will be ample time for open discussion of each of the four sites remaining under consideration. Details on the workshop and guidelines for requesting a presentation will follow in a subsequent announcement.

The process of selecting the MSL landing site is converging. After initial consideration of nearly 60 sites over more than three years, the four final candidate sites include: Eberswalde crater (23.8953°S, 326.7425°E), Gale crater (4.4868°S, 137.4239°E), Holden crater (26.4007°S, 325.1615°E), and Mawrth Vallis (23.9883°N, 341.0399°E). Each of these sites represents exciting science opportunities for MSL and has been highly rated by the science community. Details on each of these sites and all MSL landing site activities to date can be found at: <http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/> and <http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/msl/>.

In addition, the MSL Project is soliciting specific targets for exploration by the rover within and outside of each of the final four candidate landing ellipses. Members of the science community are invited to propose science targets and will be asked to provide a short statement on why each target is important and what tools and instruments on MSL would be used in the target interrogation. These targets and proposed measurements are being used to help to define the mission resources required to complete the science investigations at each site and are helping to inform integrated traversability and science evaluation studies conducted by the MSL Project, MSL Landing Site Working Group, and the science in advance of the final landing site workshop. More information on submitting exploration targets can be found at: <http://msl.qps.caltech.edu>.

All members of the scientific community are encouraged to participate in these important activities. Input from the science community is critical to identifying the optimal landing site for the MSL. We look forward to your continued involvement.

John Grant and Matt Golombek
Co-Chairs, Mars Landing Site Steering Committee

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>First Quarter 2011</i>		
	February 8-11, 2011 Paris, FRANCE	4th International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modeling and Observations http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/paris2011/
	February 7-9, 2011 Marrakech, MOROCCO	Geobiology in Space Exploration Workshop and Field Trip A meeting of talks and discussions to understand the full range of the contributions of geobiology to space exploration and settlement. Field trip "Geomicrobiology and Geology from Precambrian to Quaternary" - dates are February 10-14, 2011. http://www.irsps.unich.it/education/geoexp2011/
	February 18-22, 2011 Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA	IAG/AIG Regional Conference on Geomorphology http://www.geomorph.org/main.html

	February 22, 2011 Washington, DC, USA	Workshop on Identifying NEO Targets for Human Exploration George Washington University http://www.gwu.edu/~spi/symposiumrsvp.cfm
	February 23, 2011 Pasadena, CA, USA	48th 2001 Mars Odyssey PSG Meeting Jet Propulsion Laboratory
	February 28-March 2, 2011 Orlando, FL, USA	2011 Next Generation Suborbital Researchers Conference Registration open. http://nsrc.swri.org
	March 5-6, 2011 The Woodlands, TX, USA	Microsymposium 52: The Moon: The first Billion Years of Crustal Evolution To be held at the site of the 42 nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference http://www.planetary.brown.edu/html_pages/micro52.htm
	March 5-6, 2011 The Woodlands, TX, USA	Workshop on the Importance of Solar System Sample Return Missions to the Future of Planetary Science The workshop will focus on why sample return science is important to the future of solar system science and exploration, including the implications for NASA as it plans and implements future missions. Topics include the potential solar system targets of interest for sample return; storage, curation of the target of interest, during transit, and back on Earth, and selected planetary protection topics. http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/ssr2011/
	March 5-6, 2011 The Woodlands, TX, USA	Analogue Sites for Mars Missions: MSL and Beyond http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/analogue2011/
	March 7-11, 2011 The Woodlands, TX, USA	42nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2011/
	March 14-16, 2011 Moffett Field, CA, USA	Second International Conference on the Exploration of Phobos and Deimos NASA Ames Research Center http://www.seti.org/PhD2011
<i>Second Quarter, 2011</i>		
	April 3-8, 2011 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geosciences Union General Assembly http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2011
	April 8, 2011	Start of Mars Northern Winter
	April 11-15, 2011 Houston, TX, USA	Humans in Space Symposium http://www.dsls.usra.edu/meetings/IAA/
	May 4-6, 2011 Pisa, ITALY	Solar System Science Before and After Gaia Abstracts deadline March 18, 2011 http://www.oca.eu/workshop/Pise/
	May 16-18, 2011 Pasadena, CA area, USA	Final MSL Landing Site Workshop Details on each of the candidate landing sites and all MSL landing site activities to date can be found at: http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/ and http://webqis.wr.usgs.gov/msl/ .
	May 18-20, 2011 Madrid, SPAIN	Conference on Micro-Raman Spectroscopy and Luminescence Studies in the Earth and Planetary Sciences (CORALS II) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/corals2011/ Abstracts deadline February 23, 2011

	June 6-10, 2011 Portsmouth, VA, USA	8th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-8) Contact David Atkinson, Atkinson@uidaho.edu June 4-5, Short Course: Atmospheric Flight Systems Technologies
	June 5-8, 2011 Bozeman, MT, USA	AbGradCon 2011 – Astrobiology Graduate Student Conference Abstracts deadline February 28, 2011 http://abgradcon2011.org/
	June 13-15, 2011 Houston, TX, USA	A Wet vs. Dry Moon: Exploring Volatile Reservoirs and Implications for the Evolution of the Moon and Future Exploration Abstracts deadline March 22, 2011 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2011/
	June 13-15, 2011 Lisbon, PORTUGAL	International Conference on Mars on “The Exploration of Mars Habitability” Pre-Conference Mars Science Team Meetings: June 12-13 (1.5) days. Open for Mars science team meetings. Post-Meeting Field Trip: Rio Tinto, Spain: June 18-20/21 (3-4 days). Visit to unique geology and acidic environment. Abstracts deadline February 11, 2011 http://www.congrex.nl/11a14/
	June 16-17, 2011 Lisbon, PORTUGAL	First International MEPAG Meeting
	June 19-22, 2011 Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA	2nd Annual Joint Planetary and Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium and Space Resources Roundtable (PTMSS/SRR) Details to be posted to the PTMSS website (www.ptmss.com) as they become available. Abstracts deadline April 30, 2011
	June 21-24, 2011 Laurel, MD, USA	9th IAA Low Cost Planetary Missions Conference Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory http://lcpm9.jhuapl.edu/index.php for more information
	June 22-24, 2011 Greenbelt, MD, USA	The Annual Meeting of Planetary Mappers Contact Les Bleamaster (lbleamas@psi.edu)
	June 28 – July 7, 2011 Melbourne, AUSTRALIA	IUGG/IAMAS General Assembly J-M07 Atmospheres and ices on terrestrial planets Abstracts deadline February 1, 2011 http://www.iugg2011.com/program-iamas.asp
<i>Third Quarter, 2011</i>		
	July 3-8, 2011 Montpellier, FRANCE	ISSOL – The International Astrobiology Society an IAU C51 (Bioastronomy) Joint International Conference Abstracts deadline February 19, 2011 http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/
	July 11-14, 2011 Cologne, GERMANY	European Astrobiology Network Association (EANA) 2011 Planets and life: evolution and distribution Abstracts deadline April 18, 2011 http://www.eana2011.de/
	July 17-22, 2011 South Hadley, MA, USA	2011 Gordon Research Conference on Origins of Solar Systems Applications deadline is June 26, 2011. Apply early because it is expected to be oversubscribed. http://www.grc.org
	August 8-11, 2011 Taipei, TAIWAN	AOGS 2011 – Asia Oceania Geosciences Society Abstracts deadline March 15, 2011 http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2011/public.asp?page=home.htm

	August 8-12, 2011 Greenwich, ENGLAND	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix (g.benedix@nhm.ac.uk) http://www.metsoc2011.org
	August 14-19, 2011 Prague, Czech Republic	Goldschmidt 2011 Abstracts deadline April 15, 2011 http://www.goldschmidt2011.org/
	September 13, 2011	Start of Mars Northern Spring
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2011</i>		
	October 2-7, 2011 Nantes, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS & 2011 European Planetary Science Congress Contact Olivier Grasset at Olivier.Grasset@univ-nantes.fr http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 3-7, 2011 Nantes, FRANCE	EPSC-DPS 2011 A joint meeting of the European Planetary Science Congress (EPSC) and the American Astronomical Society Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc-dps2011/ May 31: Abstracts due
	October 9-12, 2011 Minneapolis, MN, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	Update November 25- December 18, 2011	MSL Launch Period
	December 12-16, 2011 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012</i>		
	March 2012	43rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	March 30, 2012	Start of Mars Northern Summer
	July 14-22, 2012 Mysore, INDIA	COSPAR 2012 Scientific Assembly Abstracts deadline – mid-February 2012 http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Meetings/sciass.htm
	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.33igc.org/
	August 6-20, 2012	MSL Landing
	September 29, 2012	Start of Mars Northern Fall
	November 4-7, 2012 Charlotte, North Carolina, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
<i>2013</i>		
	March 2013	44th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference

	July 2013 Pasadena, CA, USA	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology
	October 27-30, 2013	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
	November 18, 2013	MAVEN Launch Period Opens
<i>2014</i>		
	March 2014	45th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	October 19-22, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA	Geological Society of American Annual Meeting
<i>2015</i>		
	March 2015	46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference

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

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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>.