

Plenary Session



Lunar and Planetary Institute Director David Black opens the Mars Forum and introduces George Abbey.



NASA Johnson Space Center Director George Abbey welcomes the Mars Forum participants with a brief review of Johnson Space Center activities supporting future missions beyond low-Earth orbit, such as human performance on space station, BIO-Plex, Advanced Life Support long-duration stays in the human test chamber, and KC-135 reduced gravity training flights.



Convener Mike Duke sets the stage for the two-day Mars Forum by describing the university contributions and participation in the HEDS-UP effort.



Convener Nancy Ann Budden puts the Mars Forum in a historical context and reviews anticipated goals for the meeting.



Doug Cooke of the NASA/JSC Office of Exploration presents the vision for human exploration and discusses some of the goals as well as challenges for human exploration.



Bill O'Neil of JPL's Mars Missions Group discusses the successes of past Mars robotic missions and looks at future missions to the martian surface.