



Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Charter

The Mars Exploration Payload Analysis Group (MEPAG) is responsible for analyzing science and technology issues associated with payloads flown on missions of the Mars Exploration Program. It provides its results to the NASA Headquarters Office of Space Science (OSS) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Mars Program Office (MPO) for use in reaching decisions about the Mars Exploration Program. The MEPAG is chartered by OSS and reports formally to the Science Director for Solar System Exploration, and through the Science Director to the Mars Program Director. The MEPAG is also expected to develop and maintain a close working relationship with the JPL MPO. The specific duties of the MEPAG include:

- Providing analysis and information which OSS can use in making decisions on payloads and priorities for the Mars Exploration Program.
- Providing analysis and information which MPO can use in making decisions on Program implementation issues.
- Providing a forum in which all main participants in the Mars Exploration Program, including international partners and the NASA Human Exploration and Development of Space (HEDS) Enterprise can discuss Mars exploration science and technology issues.
- Responding to requests from both OSS and MPO for analysis of specific issues or more general aspects of the Mars Exploration Program.

The Chair of the MEPAG is designated by the OSS Science Director for Solar System Exploration. Membership in MEPAG shall include representatives of all main participants in the Mars Exploration Program, including the HEDS Enterprise and all international partners. The MEPAG may choose to organize sub-groups to deal with specific issues and report their findings to the full Group. The MEPAG meets approximately 3 times annually or otherwise as needed. The results of each meeting will be reported to OSS and MPO in writing by the Chair. Logistical and organization support to the MEPAG Chair will be provided through MPO. The NASA HQ Mars Exploration Program Scientist will be the Executive Secretary for MEPAG.