

**2<sup>nd</sup> Information Circular**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> International MEPAG meeting**  
**(25th MEPAG Meeting)**  
**February 27-28, 2012**  
**Washington, DC, USA**

Letter of Invitation

Members of the Mars community,

I cordially invite you to attend the second international meeting of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG), scheduled for February 27-28, 2012 at the Hilton Washington Dulles International Airport in the Washington, DC area.

There have been many developments in Mars exploration in both NASA and ESA over the past year. This meeting will focus on the implications of these as well as the overall status of Mars exploration. This will be the second international meeting of MEPAG and it directly supports NASA's and ESA's intent to collaborate on Mars exploration. The meeting agenda will address the status and plans for current missions as well as current planning for future missions. This meeting will be followed, in the same venue, by the 1<sup>st</sup> Landing Site Workshop for future possible Mars missions.

Key discussion topics will include:

- Discussion of NASA's and ESA's Mars program status, budget, current missions, and forward planning.
- Update on the 2013 MAVEN mission
- Update on the 2016 Trace Gas Orbiter mission, including possible Russian participation
- Reporting from the 2018 Joint Rover Mission Joint Science and Joint Engineering Working Groups
- Reports on planning activities for the MSR campaign
- Interaction with the Human program (HEOMD)
- Planning for future MEPAG work.

The meeting is open to all members of the Mars science community and so I welcome our international colleagues. We will also broadcast the meeting via WebEx for those who cannot attend in person.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Washington!

Sincerely,  
Dr. David Des Marais  
MEPAG Chair



WebEx directions will be provided in a later announcement.

### Basic Logistics

- Date: Monday, February 27 – 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM.  
Tuesday, February 28 – 8:30 AM until 5:00 PM.
- Location: Hilton Washington Dulles International Airport  
13869 Park Center Road  
Herndon, VA 20171  
(703) 478-2900
- Hotel Reservation Information: A block of rooms reserved at the rate of \$139.00 per night plus tax on a first-come, first-serve basis. The room block code is “NAS”. Absolutely no smoking inside the hotel.

### **Deadline for the room block is February 6**

If you have a reservation within the room block, please let the hotel know either before or at the time of check-in if you plan to check out earlier than your scheduled check out date to avoid a \$50.00 early departure fee.

- Meeting RSVP: So that we can plan the meeting logistics (e.g., seating, morning and afternoon refreshments, name badges, handouts, etc.), we request that all participants RSVP by **February 19, 2012**, to Joyce Pulliam ([Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov)). Please note that an RSVP is not required to attend the meeting, but primarily for planning purposes.

If you need additional information, please contact Charles Budney, MEPAG meeting coordinator, [charles.j.budney@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:charles.j.budney@jpl.nasa.gov), phone = 818-354-3981. If you have updates to the master MEPAG e-mail list (either correction of faulty e-mail addresses, addition of Mars science colleagues who have been inadvertently omitted), or deletions, please contact Joyce Pulliam ([Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov)).