

MExAG

Mercury Exploration Assessment Group

23 November 2020

Notes from the Mercury Exploration Assessment Group

- 1st MExAG Annual Meeting will be 3–5 February 2021.
 - Initiation of development of MExAG Goals Document.
- Completion and adoption of MExAG Steering Committee Code of Conduct expected by end of 2020.
- BepiColombo had a successful 1st flyby of Venus – has a 2nd Venus flyby Aug 2021 and 1st Mercury flyby Oct 2021.
- The Mercury community is examining the NF-5 major parameters announcement.
 - It has been noted that the proposed cost cap represents a significant cut from NF-4 and when inflated to FY25\$ is significantly smaller than PMCS project guidelines.

Mercury and the Decadal Survey

- 6 Mercury presentations were made to the Decadal Survey Panel on Mercury and the Moon
 - *Science Goals and Current Status of BepiColombo* – Johannes Benkhoff (ESA)
 - *Priorities of the Mercury Exploration Assessment Group* – Steven Hauck (CWRU)
 - *Mercury Sample Return and Related Research and Analysis Activities* – Kathleen Vander Kaaden (Jacobs/JSC)
 - *Mercury Polar Volatiles* – Ariel Deutsch (ARC)
 - *Mercury Lander Mission Concept* – Carolyn Ernst (JHU-APL)
 - *Goals for the Study of Mercury's Magnetosphere and Exosphere* – James Slavin (Michigan)