

**1st Information Circular**  
**38<sup>th</sup> / Spring 2020 MEPAG Meeting**  
**April 15-17, 2020**  
**Washington DC region (Arlington)**

Members of the Mars community,

I cordially invite you to participate in the next face-to-face Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) meeting scheduled for Wednesday-Friday, April 15-17, 2020 (**#38**). This meeting will be held at the Residence Inn Arlington Capital View (Arlington, VA – hotel information is included in the below).

The main foci of this MEPAG meeting are preparation for the next Planetary Science Decadal Survey and the current state of Mars exploration plans within NASA and other space agencies. Agenda items are expected to include updates about:

- Recent MEPAG activities, including Decadal Survey preparations
- The Mars Exploration Program, including plans for Mars Sample Return
- Ongoing and planned Mars missions, domestic and international
- Human Exploration and Commercial Space future access to Mars
- The status report of the ongoing Mars Architecture Strategy Working Group

In addition to these reports, the agenda will include time for community interests and questions to be presented and discussed. In particular, time is allocated for

- The presentation of community-generated white paper topics (potentially via lightning talks and/or posters), and
- A community forum period for discussion of community concerns.

More information about these agenda items, including instructions on how to request agenda time, will be provided in the 2nd Information Circular. A draft meeting agenda will also be included in that Circular.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Information Circular will be sent out via announcement and posted to the MEPAG meeting website (<http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm>) in advance of the next MEPAG virtual meeting, which will be held in the latter half of February, 2020 (**VM #8**). The exact date and agenda for this VM are still being determined, and will be posted as information becomes available. Additionally, we have requested peripheral meeting space at the upcoming [LPSC](#) for informal MEPAG community discussion following announcements about the Decadal Survey committee and schedule; more details on this will also be announced and posted after LPI scheduling.

Both of the official MEPAG meetings and the LPSC peripheral meeting are open to all members of the Mars science community including our international colleagues. I look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,  
Dr. R. Aileen Yingst  
MEPAG Chair

*If you have a suggestion for the agenda(s) or a question about either meeting, please email [mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov).*

**38<sup>th</sup> MEPAG Meeting**  
**Wednesday-Friday April 15-17, 2020**

**Important deadlines**

February 15: NASA Forecasting (NCTS) deadline

March 16: Hotel room block deadline

April 1: Registration deadline

**Registration for in-person attendance at MEPAG Meeting 38**

Registration is not required for attendance, but strongly recommended as it aids with meeting planning and name badge printing. Please register by **April 1** (no fooling) at: [REGISTRATION](#)

Please note that registration is completely separate from NASA forecasting. If you need to forecast, the meeting NCTS# is 41124-20, and the current deadline is **February 15**.

**Venue and hotel block information**

The meeting will be held at: [Residence Inn Arlington Capital View](#)  
2850 South Potomac Avenue, Arlington, VA 22202  
(703) 415-1300

The room block at this hotel is available until **March 16** or when it's filled, whichever occurs first. The block rate is \$219/night (plus taxes and fees).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b># rooms in block</b>
4/14/2020	Tuesday	25
4/15/2020	Wednesday	35
4/16/2020	Thursday	35

To reserve within the room block, please either:

- [Book your group rate for MEPAG Meeting \(Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group\) April 2020](#)
- Directly call Marriott Reservations at (703) 415-1300, and identify yourself as part of "Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) staying at the Residence Inn Arlington Capital View."

If you have any issues accessing the block before March 16, please contact [mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepagmeetingqs@jpl.nasa.gov).

**Additional logistics information will be included within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Information Circular.**