

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

July 2020

## Mars Science News

### MEPAG Virtual Meeting #9

The 9<sup>th</sup> MEPAG Virtual Meeting took place on Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Presentation files are available at <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=vm9>. Recordings and Meeting Summary will be posted in the next week. The main agenda item for this meeting was a report out from Bruce Jakosky, the chair of the Mars Architecture Strategy Working Group (MASWG), on the group's preliminary results. The MASWG presentation slides can be viewed [here](#). MASWG is seeking community feedback on these preliminary results and this feedback can be emailed to [MASWG-Feedback@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:MASWG-Feedback@jpl.nasa.gov). If responding, please do so before July 10.

### Decadal Survey White Papers:

It is the month to get all those white papers finished and entered into the official National Academies [website](#). White paper deadlines have been extended as follows:

**Science White Papers: due July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Mission Concept White Papers: due August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**All other White Papers: due September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

If you are interested in soliciting signatories for your White Paper, we encourage all White Paper authors to consider adding their paper to a MEPAG **\*SHEET\*** by filling out this **\*Google Form\***. This sheet has been set up to allow for **sharing of links, to draft white papers, sign-up sheets, and other information**. Previously entered information will NOT automatically transfer to the new sheet, but all previous sheets and entries have been preserved, and information about the sheets and links to other resources can be viewed [here](#). Please email [bcarrier@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:bcarrier@jpl.nasa.gov) if you have any questions or technical difficulties. **However, please note that the white paper lead authors are responsible for putting their paper onto the official Decadal Survey website by the above deadlines.** David Smith (NASEM) has asked that we not all wait to the last moment, and thereby overload the server.

Once your White Papers, reference list, and signatory lists are in their final form, they can be submitted for **hosting on the MEPAG Website**. This allows the submitted papers to link to the references and signatory sheets without exceeding the 7 page limit for White Papers. This will be similar to how White Papers were hosted for the previous Decadal Survey (the previous Decadal Survey papers can be viewed [here](#) under Topical White Papers for an idea of how this will look). **If you would like to host your White Paper files on the MEPAG website, please send the title, lead author contact info, and the desired files to be posted (including final report, list of signatories, and list of references, if desired) to [bcarrier@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:bcarrier@jpl.nasa.gov).** Reminder: If you are making your document publicly available, you will need to go through the appropriate process at your home institution and certify that this has been done before documents can be posted on the MEPAG website.

### FROM THE MEPAG CHAIR:

*Greetings.* I wanted to make you aware of some clarification regarding Decadal Survey white papers that was provided during dialog between Dr. Lori Glaze and the caucus of Analysis Group (AG) Chairs: LEAG, MAPSIT, MEPAG, OPAG, SBAG and VEXAG.

Specifically, the clarification answers that expressed concern of many in the community regarding how much time and effort should be put into writing white papers, and in garnering signatories. Given the current situation with the pandemic, many community members are struggling to carve out the time needed to craft high-quality white papers, as well as find signatories for those papers. Dr. Glaze emphasized the importance of getting the idea of each white paper across clearly to the panel, rather than making the white paper a "perfect" document. All white papers will be read, and all white papers will be considered regardless of the number of signatures attached. Writing white papers should thus not be considered a race or a competitive proposal, but a mechanism for airing ideas and presenting them to the panels.

We will continue to dialog with HQ and with the Decadal Survey (DS) Chairs, as this situation develops. In the meantime, I encourage the MEPAG community to use the extra time the DS Chairs have extended to take some of the pressure off yourselves. This is a stressful time for everyone, so be kind to yourselves and to others. We will get through this together.




Sincerely,  
R. Aileen Yingst, MEPAG Chair

**Near-term Due Dates (next three months)**

Due	Conference
July 15	<b>Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology</b> – Science White Papers Deadline
July 20	<b>2020 Annual Meeting of Planetary Geologic Map</b> – Registration Deadline
July 29	<b>2020 AGU Fall Meeting</b> – Abstract Deadline
July 30	<b>11th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting</b> – Registration Deadline
July 31	<b>Planet Moon-Magnetosphere Interaction Workshop</b> – Registration Deadline
August 4	<b>Int’l Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Automation in Space</b> – Abstract Deadline
August 4	<b>GSA 2020 Annual Meeting</b> – Abstract Deadline
August 9	<b>Ocean World 5</b> – Early Registration Deadline
August 15	<b>Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology</b> – Mission Concept White Papers Deadline
August 25	<b>Ocean World 5</b> – Registration Deadline
September 3	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop</b> – Abstract Deadline
September 15	<b>Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology</b> – All Other White Papers Deadline
September 18	<b>Int’l Symposium on Artificial Intelligence</b> – Early Registration Deadline

**Upcoming Conferences**

- Note that for civil servants and those under contract with NASA, foreign and NASA-sponsored conferences generally need to be forecasted via NCTS. Forecasting to NCTS is usually due 60 days in advance for domestic meetings. If you are unsure whether an event is a conference or not, or when the deadline may be, please consult with your NASA Center conference forecasting/travel unit.
- We have noted conference changes we are aware of – but the impact of COVID-19 continues to evolve. If we show a conference as still happening in the next few months, it is advisable to check the website and confirm with conference organizers.
- VM = virtual meeting.

Third-Fourth Quarter continued		
<b>NEW!</b>	July 2, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>Perspectives and Lessons Learned: Decadal Survey in Space Science</b> <a href="https://mailchi.mp/nas/planetarydecadal-june2020b?e=58a6b45df1">https://mailchi.mp/nas/planetarydecadal-june2020b?e=58a6b45df1</a>
	July 23, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>2020 Annual Meeting of Planetary Geologic Mappers</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/pgm2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/pgm2020/</a>
	July, 2020	<b>Launch window for the UAE EMM orbiter (Hope)</b>
	July 17-August 5, 2020	<b>Launch window for the NASA Mars 2020 rover (Perseverance)</b>
	August 5-7, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>11th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/crater2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/crater2020/</a>
	August 31- September 1, 2020 Washington, DC, USA	<b>Human to Mars Summit</b> <a href="https://www.exploremars.org/">https://www.exploremars.org/</a>
	September 8-9, 2020 Woods Hole, MA	<b>Ocean Worlds 5</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/oceanworlds2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/oceanworlds2020/</a>
	September 21- October 9, 2020 Virtual Meeting	<b>Europlanet Science Congress</b> <a href="https://www.epsc2020.eu/">https://www.epsc2020.eu/</a>
	October 5-8, 2020 Houston, TX, USA	<b>Martian Enigmas 2020</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigmas2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigmas2020/</a>
	October 18-21, 2020 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Automation in Space (i-SAIRAS 2020)</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/isairas2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/isairas2020/</a>
<b>UPDATE</b>	October 25-28, 2020 Virtual	<b>GSA Annual Meeting</b> <a href="https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home">https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home</a>
	November 5-6, 2020 Noordwijk, The Netherlands	<b>Planet Moon-Magnetosphere Interaction Workshop</b> <a href="https://indico.esa.int/event/337/">https://indico.esa.int/event/337/</a>
	November 17-19, 2020 Baltimore, MD, USA	<b>3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/interstellarprobe2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/interstellarprobe2020/</a>
	November 18-20, 2020	<b>5th International Workshop on Instrumentation</b>

	Tokyo, Japan	<a href="https://www2.rikkyo.ac.jp/web/ipm2020/">https://www2.rikkyo.ac.jp/web/ipm2020/</a>
	December 7-11, 2020 San Francisco, CA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting">https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting</a>

<b>Postponements (listed in alphabetical order, with new dates given as known)</b>		
<b>May 2021</b>	Alamosa, CO, USA	<b>7<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Dunes Workshop (2020 was the 6<sup>th</sup>)</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/</a>
<b>January 28-February 4, 2021</b>	Sydney, Australia	<b>43<sup>rd</sup> COSPAR Scientific Assembly (COSPAR 2021, had been COSPAR 2020)</b> <a href="https://www.cospar-assembly.org/">https://www.cospar-assembly.org/</a>
<b>April 12-16, 2021 [TBC]</b>	Canary Islands, Spain	<b>Biennial European Astrobiology Conference (BEACON)</b> <a href="http://europeanastrobiology.eu/BEACON2020/index.html">http://europeanastrobiology.eu/BEACON2020/index.html</a>
	Denver, CO, USA	<b>Lunar Surface Science Workshop</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarsurface2020">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarsurface2020</a>
<b>UPDATE: 2021</b>	Houston, TX, USA	<b>Martian Enigmas 2020</b> <a href="https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigmas2020/">https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigmas2020/</a>
<b>June 8-11, 2021</b>	Orleans, France	<b>Mercury 2020, Current and future science of the innermost planet</b> <a href="https://mercury2020.ias.u-psud.fr/main_1st.php">https://mercury2020.ias.u-psud.fr/main_1st.php</a>
<b>April 9-11, 2021</b>	Tokyo, Japan	<b>NASA Astrobiology Graduate Conference (AbGradCon)</b> <a href="http://abgradcon.org">http://abgradcon.org</a>
	Boulder, CO, USA	<b>Titan Through Time Workshop V</b> <a href="https://www.titanthroughtime.org/">https://www.titanthroughtime.org/</a>
	Next Spring Saint-Hubert, Canada	<b>Women in Space 2020</b> <a href="http://www.womeninspacecon.com/">http://www.womeninspacecon.com/</a>

## Seasons on Mars

	MY35	MY36	MY37
Start of Northern Spring / L <sub>s</sub> 0	03/23/2019	02/07/2021	12/26/2022
Start of Northern Summer / L <sub>s</sub> 90	10/08/2019	08/25/2021	07/13/2023
Start of Northern Autumn / L <sub>s</sub> 180	04/08/2020	02/24/2022	01/24/2024
Start of Northern Winter / L <sub>s</sub> 270	09/02/2020	07/21/2022	06/07/2024

## Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Federal Holiday	2020	2021
New Year's Day	Wed. Jan. 1	Fri. Jan. 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Mon. Jan. 20	Mon. Jan. 18
President's Day	Mon. Feb. 17	Mon. Feb. 15
Memorial Day	Mon. May 25	Mon. May 31
Independence Day (Observed)	Fri. July 3*	Mon. July 5*
Labor Day	Mon. Sept. 7	Mon. Sept. 6
Columbus Day	Mon. Oct. 12	Mon. Oct. 11
Veterans' Day	Wed. Nov. 11	Thu. Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thu. Nov. 26	Thu. Nov. 25
Christmas Day	Fri. Dec. 25	Sat. Dec. 25

## Editors

Rich Zurek  
David Beaty  
Brandi Carrier  
Barbara Saltzberg

[Richard.W.Zurek@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Richard.W.Zurek@jpl.nasa.gov)  
[David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov)  
[Brandi.L.Carrier@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Brandi.L.Carrier@jpl.nasa.gov)  
[Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov)

818-354-3725  
818-354-7968  
818-354-9956  
818-354-0226

Please send Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's newsletter to:

Barbara Saltzberg at [Barbara.a.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Barbara.a.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov)

This newsletter (and all previous months') is also posted on the MEPAG website: <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>

If you wish to withdraw from the electronic mailing list that this newsletter is sent out to, please send an email from your email account to [mepag-removesignup@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepag-removesignup@jpl.nasa.gov).

To be added to this list and receive this monthly newsletter and other Mars Science announcements, or to update your MEPAG directory information (which contains the email list used for sending out this newsletter), please fill out the online form at <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/emailnewsletters.cfm> (also linked at the bottom of the MEPAG website <http://mepag.nasa.gov/>) or send an email to [mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov) from the email account you'd like added, with your full name and institution.