

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

September 2020

Mars Science News

Upcoming MEPAG Virtual Meeting

MEPAG Virtual Meeting #10 (VM10) will take place on Tuesday, October 20th at 10am PDT/1pm EDT. The main agenda topic will be a report of the NASEM Assessment of the Report of NASA's Planetary Protection Independent Review Board (PPIRB). More information will follow in the 1st Information Circular.

Recent News

Mars Mission Launches

- Three missions successfully launched and are on the way to encounter with Mars in 2021: UAE Hope (Emirates Mars Mission), China Tianwen-1, USA Perseverance (Mars 2020)

MEPAG Presentation to Planetary Sciences Advisory Committee

- MEPAG presented at the August 17-18 Planetary Sciences Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting. Presentation slides are online at [PAC8-18-2020](#)

Exoplanet/Solar System Synergies

- The Exoplanet Exploration Program Analysis Group (ExoPAG) has formed a Science Interest Group (SIG) focused on Exoplanet/Solar System Synergies to coordinate joint activities and an ongoing discussion on how Exoplanet and Solar System science and missions can benefit from each other. This SIG ([SIG3](#)) will endeavor to identify multiple initiatives that could be mutually beneficial for both communities and will encourage cross-disciplinary interaction between ExoPAGs and the Planetary Advisory Groups.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Conference
September 1	VEXAG Annual Meeting – Abstract Deadline
September 3	3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop – Abstract Deadline
September 15	Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology – All Other White Papers Deadline
September 18	Int'l Symposium on Artificial Intelligence – Early Registration Deadline
September 21	GSA Annual Meeting – Early Registration
October 19	3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop – Early Registration Deadline
November 2	VEXAG – Registration Deadline
November 3	3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop – 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		
	September 21- October 9, 2020 Virtual Meeting	Europlanet Science Congress https://www.epsc2020.eu/
UPDATE	October 19-23, 2020 Virtual Meeting	International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Automation in Space (i-SAIRAS 2020) https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/isairas2020/
	October 26-30, 2020	GSA Annual Meeting

	Virtual Meeting	https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home
	October 26-30, 2020 Virtual Meeting	52nd Meeting of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences https://dps.aas.org/meetings/future
Most likely to change to VM	November 5-6, 2020 Noordwijk, The Netherlands	Planet Moon-Magnetosphere Interaction Workshop https://indico.esa.int/event/337/
	November 16-17, 2020 Virtual Meeting	VEXAG Annual Meeting https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/vexag-18/
	November 17-19, 2020 Virtual Meeting	3rd Interstellar Probe Exploration Workshop https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/interstellarprobe2020/
UPDATE	December 7-11, 2020 Virtual Meeting	AGU Fall Meeting https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting

Postponements (listed in alphabetical order, with new dates given as known)		
UPDATE	2021 Tokyo, Japan	5th International Workshop on Instrumentation https://www2.rikkyo.ac.jp/web/ipm2020/
	May 2021 Alamosa, CO, USA	7th International Planetary Dunes Workshop (2020 was the 6th) https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2020/
	January 28-February 4, 2021 Sydney, Australia	43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly (COSPAR 2021, had been COSPAR 2020) https://www.cospar-assembly.org/
	April 12-16, 2021 [TBC] Canary Islands, Spain	Biennial European Astrobiology Conference (BEACON) http://europeanastrobiology.eu/BEACON2020/index.html
	Denver, CO, USA	Lunar Surface Science Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarsurface2020
UPDATE	October 4-6, 2021 Houston, TX, USA	Martian Enigmas 2020 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/martianenigma2021/
	June 8-11, 2021 Orleans, France	Mercury 2020, Current and future science of the innermost planet https://mercury2020.ias.u-psud.fr/main_1st.php
	April 9-11, 2021 Tokyo, Japan	NASA Astrobiology Graduate Conference (AbGradCon) http://abgradcon.org
	Woods Hole, MA	Ocean Worlds 5 https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/oceanworlds2020/
	Boulder, CO, USA	Titan Through Time Workshop V https://www.titanthroughtime.org/
	Next Spring Saint-Hubert, Canada	Women in Space 2020 http://www.womeninspacecon.com/

Seasons on Mars

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

U.S. Federal 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

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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
 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.

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