

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

August 2021

Mars Science News

There are a number of key announcements to bring to your notice, several of which were previewed at the last MEPAG Virtual Meeting (VM12, June 21).

Call for Applications to the Measurements Definition Team for International Mars Ice Mapper

On July 26, NASA and the Canadian, Italian, and Japanese space agencies released a Call for Applications for Membership on the Joint ASI/CSA/JAXA/NASA Measurement Definition Team for the International Mars Ice Mapper Mission (I-MIM). I-MIM would map and characterize accessible (within the uppermost 10m) subsurface water ice and its overburden in mid-to-low latitudes to support planning for potential human surface missions to Mars. This (unfunded) opportunity is open to scientists, engineers, and other qualified and interested individuals from institutions worldwide. For reasons of cost, time, and safety, most of the MDT's work will be carried out using email and tele/video conferences. The full text of this call and all associated documentation and application materials can be found at: https://go.nasa.gov/imim_mdt. Applications are due August 23, 2021.

Save the Date – Workshop on Low-Cost Science Mission Concepts for Mars Exploration

In response to broad community interest in the potential role of small spacecraft and innovative mission concepts to enabling more frequent, lower-cost access to Mars, the Mars Exploration Program is organizing a workshop on *Low-Cost Science Mission Concepts for Mars Exploration*. The tentative date for the workshop is **Jan 11-13, 2022**, with the final venue to be announced soon.

A primary objective of this workshop is to bring together the various elements of the Mars community, including scientists, engineers, technologists, mission formulators, and representatives from the emerging NewSpace arena, to exchange ideas on how we can broaden our exploration of Mars with low-cost missions, based on small spacecraft and other innovative concepts. To maximize those interactions, we are planning this meeting as an in-person event. We will be monitoring COVID developments/CDC guidance and, if necessary, convert the workshop to a virtual format, but very much hope that we can hold this as a face-to-face event. We encourage you to pencil these dates into your calendar now, and we hope to see you at this event! A more complete community announcement and a survey of interest in attending will follow shortly.

Chad Edwards (on behalf of the Workshop Organizing Committee)

Call for NASA Keck Key Strategic Mission Support Proposals for 2022A

NASA is a partner in the Keck telescopes, allocating ~47 nights/semester. For the 2022A proposal cycle, in addition to General Observing and Mission Support proposals, NASA is soliciting proposals for large Key Strategic Mission Support (KSMS) programs. Also, in 2022A, the NASA Keck proposal review will use a Dual Anonymous Proposal Review (DAPR) process.

KSMS projects may support past, present, and/or future missions, including JWST. Between 10-60 nights total over 2 years will be allocated between one or more KSMS projects with a maximum of 15 nights/semester. An important element of KSMS programs is a plan for timely release of processed data through the Keck Observatory Archive in a form suitable for use by the broader community.

Required but non-binding Notices of Intent (NOI) for KSMS programs are due by August 16, 2021.

Read the full NASA Keck KSMS announcement [here](#).

Key Dates:

July 30: Call for Proposals and NOI submission site available

August 16: NOIs due by 4 pm Pacific

September 2: Deadline to request a written letter of endorsement from NASA HQ

September 16: Proposals and letters of support due by 4 pm Pacific

Questions: keckcfp@ipac.caltech.edu

Astromaterials Data Management in the Era of Sample-Return Missions Community Workshop

The Astromaterials Data Management in the Era of Sample-Return Missions Community Workshop will take place November 8th-9th, 2021 at the University of Arizona, coupled with online participation. This workshop will provide an opportunity to present and discuss all the current projects and initiatives for astromaterials sample tracking and data management. The workshop is opened to all members of the scientific community. It will bring together researchers, scientists and software engineers working on systems to track samples between curation and sample scientists, and the management, visualization and archiving of datasets resulting from the analysis of planetary materials. Those include both mission-returned samples and astromaterials (meteorites, micrometeorites and interplanetary dust particles). The organizers invite contributions spanning all these related topics, including data management for past (e.g., Apollo), current (e.g., Hayabusa2, OSIRIS-REx, ANGSA and Chang'e 5) and future (e.g., Mars Sample Return, MMX) sample-return missions. Contributions on the standards and requirements for data publication and open-access archiving are also encouraged. In particular, we plan keynote presentations and special breakout sessions on new and current projects for sample tracking and data visualization. In addition to sample-return missions and projects associated with NASA curated samples, we will also encourage participation of meteorite curations at major organizations/institutions/museums.

For more information see <https://corex.lpl.arizona.edu/astromaterials-workshop>

AGU Abstract Deadline August 4th, 2021

The abstract deadline for the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting abstract deadline is Wednesday August 4th, 2021. The meeting is scheduled to take place from December 13th-17th in New Orleans, LA and will be a hybrid meeting with virtual or in-person attendance possible. There are many exciting Mars sessions planned. For more information please visit <https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting>.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Conference
August 4	AGU 2021 Fall Meeting – Abstract Deadline
September 7	Geological Society of America (GSA) – Registration Deadline
September 24	PLATO Mission Conference 2021: Exploring Exoplanets in the Habitable – Registration Deadline
September 30	Astromaterials Data Management in the Era of Sample-Return Missions Community Workshop Abstract Deadline
September 30	Mars – A New Geological Frontier – Abstract Deadline
October 1	Astromaterials Data Management in the Era of Sample-Return Missions Community Workshop - Early Registration Deadline
October 31	Astromaterials Data Management in the Era of Sample-Return Missions Community Workshop - Registration Deadline
November 3	AGU 2021 Fall Meeting – 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.
- The situation for COVID-19, while improving for many parts of the world, continues to evolve, so that there are conferences with both in-person and virtual formats. It is advisable to check with the websites of the conference and confirm with the organization of any changes.

2021		
	August 11-13, 2021 VIRTUAL	12th Planetary Crater Consortium (PCC) Meeting https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/crater2021/
	August 14-21, 2021 Chicago, IL, USA	84th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society https://www.metsoc2021-chicago.com
	September 6-12, 2021 Quy Nhon, Vietnam	Planetary Science: The Young Solar System https://www.icisequynhon.com/conferences/2020/planetary_science/
	September 13-24, 2021 VIRTUAL	Europlanet Science Congress 2021 https://www.epsc2021.eu/
	September 14-17, 2021 VIRTUAL	NASA Astrobiology Graduate ConferenN/Ce (AbGradCon) https://www.abgradcon.org/
	October 3-8, 2021 VIRTUAL	53rd Meeting of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) https://dps.aas.org/meetings/future
	October 6-8, 2021 Long Beach, CA, USA	Space Tech Expo USA https://www.spacetecheexpo.com
	October 10-13 Portland, OR, USA	Geological Society of America (GSA) https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2021/registration
	October 11-15, 2021 VIRTUAL	PLATO Mission Conference 2021 http://platomissionconference2021.iaa.es/
NEW	November 2-4, 2021 VIRTUAL	MARS - A New Geological Frontier https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/11-gsl-mars
NEW	November 8-9, 2021 Hybrid / Tucson, Arizona, USA	Astromaterials Data Management in the Era of Sample-Return Missions Community Workshop https://corex.lpl.arizona.edu/astromaterials-workshop
	December 13-17, 2021 Hybrid / New Orleans, LA, USA	AGU 2021 Fall Meeting https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting

Seasons on Mars

	MY36	MY37	MY38
Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0	02/07/2021	12/26/2022	11/12/24
Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90	08/25/2021	07/13/2023	05/29/25
Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180	02/24/2022	01/12/2024	11/29/25
Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270	07/21/2022	06/07/2024	04/25/26

U.S. Federal holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings



Federal Holidays	
New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr.	January 18
Washington's Birthday	February 15
Memorial Day	May 31
Independence Day	July 5
Labor Day	September 6
Columbus Day	October 11
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 25
Christmas Day	December 24

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

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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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