Mars Science News

Save the Date: MEPAG Virtual Meeting #14 February 2\textsuperscript{nd} & 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2022

The next MEPAG Virtual Meeting (#14) will be held Wednesday & Thursday, February 2-3, at 1 - 5 p.m. EST (10 a.m. - 2 p.m. PDT). Tentative topics to be covered are: 1) MEPAG updates, 2) MEP/MEPO Status, 3) Ice Mapper MDT Status, 4) KISS workshop report on low-cost Mars missions, and 5) Mars mission status, including Perseverance. There will also be an extended discussion about possible MEPAG activities for the coming year. More details, including webex link, will be forthcoming in a later email.

AbSciCon 2022 Student Travel Grants Available

The NASA Astrobiology Program and Mars Program Office are funding a limited number of travel grants to qualified students to attend the conference. Reimbursable costs include transportation (airfare or mileage in one’s personal vehicle, compact car rental, fuel costs, and shuttle ride(s) – as allowable under government regulations), lodging, meals and incidental expenses, and the conference registration fee. In most cases, actual expenses will exceed the funding provided. Students who are awarded travel grants may be asked to assist conference organizers with tasks during the conference. These tasks will not interfere with their ability to participate in technical sessions. Applications are due January 26\textsuperscript{th}, 2022. Further information and application form can be accessed at the Student Travel Grant webpage.

MEPO Student Travel Grants Available for 7\textsuperscript{th} International Planetary Dunes Workshop

The NASA Mars Exploration Program Office has announced that travel funding awards are available for up to 2 U.S. undergraduate and graduate students, for reimbursement of up to $1200 in travel expenses, to attend the 7\textsuperscript{th} International Planetary Dunes Workshop. Students who are U.S. citizens, legal residents, or attending a U.S. institution on a valid visa; are at least 18 years of age; are engaged in Mars-related research relevant to this workshop; and have submitted an abstract for presentation, are eligible for this program. Applications are due by March 5, 2022. For more information and the application, see the MEPAG Student Opportunities webpage.

Low-Cost Science Mission Concept for Mars Exploration – Date Change

The conference, originally planned for Jan 11-13, 2022, is now scheduled for March 29-31, 2022 and will be held at the same venue, the Westin Pasadena Hotel, in Pasadena, CA. Further detailed information on the re-scheduled meeting is posted on the conference website.

If you booked a hotel room through the Westin-Pasadena within the block of rooms, those rooms were cancelled. The new room block is offered to you at the government rate of $182.00 per night. The new reservation link is here: Book your group rate for JPL Low Cost Mars 2022. Last day to book is Monday, March 7, 2022.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Conference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>LPSC 2022 53\textsuperscript{rd} Lunar &amp; Planetary Science Conference – Abstract Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>EGU 22 – Abstract Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR 2022) – Abstract Deadline</td>
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January 19 | AbSciCon 2022 – Abstract Deadline  
January 22 | Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG) Meeting - Registration Deadline  
January 26 | AbSciCon 2022 – Student Grant Applications Deadline  
February 3 | Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2022 – Early Abstract Deadline  
February 11 | COSPAR 2022 – Abstract Deadline  
February 14 | Geological Society of America 2022 Northeastern Section – Early Registration Deadline  
February 17 | Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2022 – Abstract Deadline  
February 17 | Science Objectives for Human Exploration of Mars Workshop – Abstract Deadline  
February 23 | Advancing IDEA in Planetary Science – Abstract Deadline  
March 5 | 7th International Planetary Dunes Workshop – Student Grant Applications Deadline  
March 20 | Low-Cost Science Mission Concepts for Mars Exploration – Registration Deadline  
March 25 | Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics – Abstract 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 continues to evolve, so here 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UPDATED</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW</td>
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<td>NEW</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17-19, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17-20, 2022</td>
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<td>May 22-27, 2022</td>
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<td>June 12-17, 2022</td>
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<td>July 4-8, 2022</td>
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<td>May 2-5, 2022</td>
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<td>November 7-13, 2022</td>
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### Seasons on Mars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Type</th>
<th>MY36</th>
<th>MY37</th>
<th>MY38</th>
<th>MY39</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start of Northern Spring / Ls 0</td>
<td>02/07/2021</td>
<td>12/26/2022</td>
<td>11/12/2024</td>
<td>09/30/2026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start of Northern Summer / Ls 90</td>
<td>08/25/2021</td>
<td>07/13/2023</td>
<td>05/29/2025</td>
<td>04/17/2027</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start of Northern Autumn / Ls 180</td>
<td>02/24/2022</td>
<td>01/12/2024</td>
<td>11/29/2025</td>
<td>10/17/2027</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start of Northern Winter / Ls 270</td>
<td>07/21/2022</td>
<td>06/07/2024</td>
<td>04/25/2026</td>
<td>03/12/2028</td>
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### U.S. Federal holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td>January 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr.</td>
<td>January 17</td>
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<td>Washington’s Birthday</td>
<td>February 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>May 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juneteenth</td>
<td>June 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>July 4</td>
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<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>September 5</td>
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<td>Native American Day</td>
<td>September 23</td>
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<td>Columbus Day</td>
<td>October 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
<td>November 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>November 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>December 26</td>
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### Editors

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<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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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](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), 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.