

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

Issue: October 2009

*Next MEPAG meeting March 17-18, 2010, Monrovia, California.*

## Mars Science News

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### *Mars Inputs to the Decadal Survey*

The MEPAG community really stepped up to the plate these last few months in preparing position papers for the Decadal Survey Mars panel and the steering committee. Counting those papers that were discussed at length at the MEPAG meeting in Providence this summer, there were over 65 papers submitted by the Mars community. This is great, showing the depth and breadth of Mars science and I thank you all for these thoughtful and well-crafted contributions.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jack Mustard, MEPAG Chair

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### *Call for New Candidate MSL Landing Sites*

We invite you to propose new candidate landing sites for the 2011 Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) mission. Specific requirements for proposing a new site and associated science and engineering criteria that must be included/discussed can be found in the abstract template posted at <http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/> and <http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/msl>. Abstracts describing new sites should be submitted via e-mail to John Grant ([grantj@si.edu](mailto:grantj@si.edu)) and Matt Golombek ([matthew.p.golombek@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:matthew.p.golombek@jpl.nasa.gov)). New candidate sites must be proposed by October 31, 2009, to be considered.

Regards,  
John Grant and Matt Golombek

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

<b>Due</b>	<b>Project</b>
10/27	<b>Ground-Based Geophysics on the Moon Conference</b> abstracts deadline
10/31	<b>Deadline for proposal new candidate MSL landing sites</b>
12/1	<b>Lunar and Planetary Science Conference #41</b> abstracts deadline
12/1	<b>Astrobiology Science Conference 2010</b> abstracts deadline
1/15	<b>Planet Mars III Workshop</b> registration deadline
1/18	<b>EGU – General Assembly 2010</b> abstracts deadline

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Dear MEPAG Community,

I met with Bob Bruner of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science last month. He has spent the past 60 years collecting books about Mars research. He developed a collection that includes both rare and more common books on science and astronomy that document the state of Mars research over time.

Mr. Bruner recently donated his collection to the Lowell Observatory and wanted us to know about this resource for historical research. The URL for the Lowell library is: <http://www.lowell.edu/Research/library/> <<http://www.lowell.edu/Research/library/>> and you can find his donations by searching on <sup>3</sup>Bruner<sup>2</sup> in the annotations field.

Regards,  
Lisa May  
Mars Exploration Program, NASA Headquarters

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## *Upcoming Conferences and Workshops*

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2009</i>		
	October 2009	<b>Call for Additional MSL Landing Sites</b> (Potentially add one more)
	October 1, 2009 Pasadena, California, USA	<b>Next 2001 Mars Odyssey PSG Meeting</b> Contact Jeff Plaut ( <a href="mailto:Jeffrey.J.Plaut@jpl.nasa.gov">Jeffrey.J.Plaut@jpl.nasa.gov</a> )
	October 4-9, 2009 Fajardo, Puerto Rico, USA	<b>41st Annual DPS Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html">http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html</a> The El Conquistador Resort (meeting site) is now open for reservations.
	October 12-14, 2009 Brussels, BELGIUM	<b>9<sup>th</sup> European Workshop on Astrobiology EANA'09</b> <a href="http://www.exobiologie.be/eana/">http://www.exobiologie.be/eana/</a> Contact: Christian Muller ( <a href="mailto:Christian.muller@aeronomie.be">Christian.muller@aeronomie.be</a> )
	October 12-14, 2009 Moscow, RUSSIA	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Vernadsky-Brown Microsymposium</b> This microsymposium will cover multiple topics in planetary science, with the last day devoted to the analysis of the Martian satellite Phobos. Sponsored by the Russian Foundation of Basic Research. Contacts: Alexander Basilevsky ( <a href="mailto:atbas@geokhi.ru">atbas@geokhi.ru</a> ) and James W. Head ( <a href="mailto:James.Head.III@Brown.edu">James.Head.III@Brown.edu</a> ) See web site for further details: <a href="http://www.planetology.ru/micro.php">http://www.planetology.ru/micro.php</a>
	October 12-16, 2009 Daejeon, SOUTH KOREA	<b>60<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC)</b> <a href="http://www.iac2009.kr/">http://www.iac2009.kr/</a>

	12-16 October 2009 Tuscany, ITALY	<b>GEOLOGICAL MAPPING OF MARS:A WORKSHOP ON NEW CONCEPTS AND TOOLS (12-14 October) and FIELD TRIP ON THE GEOLOGY OF TUSCANY (15 – 16 October)</b> The workshop will focus on three currently evolving aspects to planetary geological mapping: (1) the identification and mapping of geological units and features, (2) the digital tools that provide an efficient way to assemble data and map the surface, and (3) the extension of surface contact mapping into the subsurface and in a 3D environment. Contact: Gian Gabriele Ori [ggori@irsps.unich.it] <a href="http://www.irsps.unich.it/education/mapping09">http://www.irsps.unich.it/education/mapping09</a>
	October 18–21, 2009 Portland, Oregon, USA	<b>Geological Society of America National Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/">http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/</a>
	October 20-22, 2009 Laurel, Maryland, USA	<b>(NASA) 3-Day Training Course on Planetary Protection</b> "Planetary Protection: Policies and Practices" Designed to familiarize current and future practitioners with NASA, ESA, and COSPAR planetary protection programs. Enrollment: 20 participants - Contact: <a href="mailto:tasalb@msn.com">tasalb@msn.com</a> <a href="http://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/pp/course/index.htm">http://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/pp/course/index.htm</a>
	October 26-28, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	<b>Decadal Survey - Second Inner Planets Panel Meeting</b> National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	October 26-28, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	<b>Decadal Survey - Second Giant Planets Panel Meeting</b> National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	October 28-29, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	<b>VEXAG Meeting</b> On Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, in conjunction with the Next Decadal Survey Panel Meetings
	October 28-30, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	<b>Decadal Survey - Second Primitive Bodies Panel Meeting</b> National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	November 4-6, 2009 Pasadena, California, USA	<b>Decadal Survey - Second Mars Panel Meeting</b> California Institute of Technology, 1200 E. California Boulevard
	November 9-10, 2009 Amman, JORDAN	<b>The first Arab Impact Cratering and Astrogeology Conference</b> <a href="http://aicac.iqa.org.jo/main1/">http://aicac.iqa.org.jo/main1/</a>
	November 16-18, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	<b>Decadal Survey - Second Planetary Science Steering Group</b> National Academies' Beckman Center (Huntington Room). <a href="http://www7.nationalacademies.org/beckman/">http://www7.nationalacademies.org/beckman/</a>
	November 16-19, 2009 Houston, Texas, USA	<b>Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG 2009) at the Lunar and Planetary Institute</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/leag2009">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/leag2009</a>
	<b>Update</b> November 23-24, 2009 ESRIN, Frascati, ITALY	<b>Mars Express Science Team Meeting</b> Monday-Tuesday before the Workshop on Methane on Mars Contact Olivier Witasse ( <a href="mailto:Olivier.Witasse@esa.int">Olivier.Witasse@esa.int</a> )
	November 25-27, 2009 ESRIN, Frascati, ITALY	<b>Joint ESA-ASI Workshop on Methane on Mars: Current Observations, Interpretation and Future Plans</b> The goal of the workshop is to review the potential reservoirs and release mechanisms of methane and its circulation in the atmosphere, and possible origins of this constituent. <a href="http://www.congrec.nl/09c26/">http://www.congrec.nl/09c26/</a> Contact Olivier Witasse ( <a href="mailto:Olivier.Witasse@esa.int">Olivier.Witasse@esa.int</a> )

	December 15-17, 2009 London, UK	<b>Exploration Remote Sensing – GRSG AGM 2009</b> The Geological Society (Burlington House) Contact: Chairman Dan Taranik at <a href="mailto:dtaranik@angloamerican.co.uk">dtaranik@angloamerican.co.uk</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/grsg2009">http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/grsg2009</a>
	December 14–18, 2009 San Francisco, California, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/">www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/</a> See web site for details of the new abstract system.
<i>First Quarter, 2010</i>		
	2010 Golden, Colorado, USA	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Space Resources Roundtable</b> Held at the Colorado School of Mines Joining individuals from the space exploration community, the financial sector and mining and minerals industries, the SRR seeks to bring together interested parties to discuss issues related to the In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) of Lunar, asteroidal and Martian resources.
	January 4-9, 2010 Seapal Suma, Kobe, JAPAN	<b>The CPS 6<sup>th</sup> International School of Planetary Sciences –</b> First Circular “Planetary Atmospheres – Sisters, relatives and ancestors of our own” Enrollment: 50 participants - Application deadline: September 25, 2009 <a href="http://w2ww.cps-ip.org/~pschool/2010-01-04/">http://w2ww.cps-ip.org/~pschool/2010-01-04/</a>
	January 10-15, 2010 Galveston, Texas, USA	<b>The Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) Origin of Life</b> Being held in conjunction with the Gordon Research Conference Origin of life (January 10-15, 2010) and will offer the unique opportunity for young researchers to present cutting edge research and discuss emerging ideas within the origin of life context. <a href="http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&amp;program=origin">http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&amp;program=origin</a> <a href="http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&amp;program=grs_origin">http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&amp;program=grs_origin</a>
	January 13-15, 2010 Santiago, CHILE	<b>Astrobio 2010</b> <a href="http://www.astro.puc.cl/astrobio2010/HOME.html">http://www.astro.puc.cl/astrobio2010/HOME.html</a>
	January 21-22, 2010 Tempe, Arizona, USA	<b>Ground-Based Geophysics on the Moon</b> Contacts: Matthew Fouch, Andrew Dombard, Catherine Johnson at <a href="mailto:lunargeophys@asu.edu">lunargeophys@asu.edu</a> Abstraction submission deadline: October 27, 2009 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lunargeo2010/lunargeo20101st.shtml">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lunargeo2010/lunargeo20101st.shtml</a>
	January 25-26, 2010 London, UK	<b>The Detection of Extra-Terrestrial Life and the Consequences for Science and Society</b> <a href="http://royalsociety.org/event.asp?id=8602&amp;month=1,2010">http://royalsociety.org/event.asp?id=8602&amp;month=1,2010</a>
	January 26, 2010 Tempe, AZ, USA	<b>Mars Odyssey PSG</b> Arizona State University Hosted by Phil Chistensen
	January 27-29, 2010 Boulder, CO, USA	<b>Lunar Dust, Plasma and Atmosphere: The Next Steps</b> A scientific workshop on “Lunar Dust, Plasma and Atmosphere: The Next Steps” will be held at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics of the University of Colorado. <a href="http://lpa2010.colorado.edu/">http://lpa2010.colorado.edu/</a>
	February 18-20, 2010 Boulder, CO, USA	<b>Next-Generation Suborbital Researchers Conference</b> Save the date Announcement at <a href="http://lpi.usra.edu/meetings/nsrc2010">http://lpi.usra.edu/meetings/nsrc2010</a>
	February 22-24, 2010 Irvine, CA, USA	<b>Decadal Survey Steering Group</b>
	March 17-18, 2010 Monrovia, California, USA	<b>MEPAG #22</b> Contacts: Charles Budney ( <a href="mailto:Charles.j.budney@jpl.nasa.gov">Charles.j.budney@jpl.nasa.gov</a> ) and Joyce Pulliam ( <a href="mailto:Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov">Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov</a> )

	March 1-5, 2010 The Woodlands, Texas, USA	<b>Lunar and Planetary Science Conference #41</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/</a> Abstracts deadline December 1, 2009, 5:00 p.m. (CST)
	March 14-17, 2010 Honolulu, Hawaii, USA	<b>ASCE Earth and Space 2010 Conference</b> There will be 15 symposia, including Exploration and Utilization of Extraterrestrial Bodies and NASA/ARO/ASCE Workshop on Granular Materials in Lunar and Martian Exploration. <a href="http://content.asce.org/conferences/earthspace2010/index.html">http://content.asce.org/conferences/earthspace2010/index.html</a>
 	March 17-18, 2010 Monrovia, California, USA	<b>Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG #22)</b> Save the date.
	March 28-April 2, 2010 Valley of Chamonix, FRANCE	<b>Planet Mars III Workshop – Les Houches</b> Contact Oliver Witasse at <a href="mailto:owitasse@rssd.esa.int">owitasse@rssd.esa.int</a> <a href="http://www.rssd.esa.int/index.php?project=MARSEXPRES&amp;page=planet_mars3">http://www.rssd.esa.int/index.php?project=MARSEXPRES&amp;page=planet_mars3</a> Registration deadline January 15, 2010
<i>Second Quarter, 2010</i>		
	April 12-14, 2010 Boulder, CO, USA	<b>Decadal Survey Satellites Panel</b>
	April 14-16, 2010 Boulder, CO, USA	<b>Decadal Survey Mars Panel</b>
	April 19-23, 2010 El Paso, Texas, USA	<b>First International Conference on Mars Sedimentology and Stratigraphy</b> A week-long conference including a 2-day field trip to look at the Mars analog sedimentary rocks that have filled the western part of the Permian Basin. Conference web site will be posted through LPI.
	April 21-23, 2010 Boulder, CO, USA	<b>Decadal Survey Inner Planets Panel</b>
	April 26-28, 2010 Knoxville, TN, USA	<b>Decadal Survey Primitive Bodies Panel</b>
	April 26-29, 2010 League City, Texas, USA	<b>Astrobiology Science Conference 2010</b> Abstracts deadline December 1, 2009 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2010/abscicon20101st.shtml">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2010/abscicon20101st.shtml</a>
	May 2-7, 2010 Vienna, AUSTRIA	<b>European Geosciences Union (EGU) – General Assembly 1010</b> Abstracts deadline January 18, 2010
	May 3-6, 2010 Monastir, TUNISIA	<b>Astronomical Data Analysis (ADA6)</b> <a href="http://www.aset.org.tn/conf/ADA6">http://www.aset.org.tn/conf/ADA6</a>
	May 5-7, 2010 Boston, MA, USA	<b>Decadal Survey Giant Planets Panel</b> (or Woods Hole, MA)
	May 25-27, 2010 Washington, DC, USA	<b>Decadal Survey Steering Group</b>
	June 12-13, 2010 Barcelona, SPAIN	<b>Planetary Protection Short Course</b> <a href="http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/">http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/</a>

	June 13-18, 2010 Knoxville, TN, USA	<b>Goldschmidt Conference</b> <a href="http://www.goldschmidt2010.org/">http://www.goldschmidt2010.org/</a> Contact: Hap McSween at <a href="mailto:mcsween@utk.edu">mcsween@utk.edu</a> Abstracts deadline not yet established
	June 14-16, 2010 Brittany, FRANCE	<b>Faraday Discussion 147: Chemistry of the Planets</b> Saint Jacut de la Mer. Oral abstracts deadline: September 21, 2009 Contact: Ian Sims, <a href="mailto:ian.sims@univ-rennes1.fr">ian.sims@univ-rennes1.fr</a> <a href="http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/FD147/index.asp">http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/FD147/index.asp</a>
	June 14-18, 2010 Barcelona, SPAIN	<b>7<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Probe Workshop 2010 (IPPW-7)</b> <a href="http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/">http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/</a>
	June 8-12, 2010 Oslo, NORWAY	<b>International Polar Year Oslo Science Conference</b> <a href="http://www.ipy-osc.no/">http://www.ipy-osc.no/</a>
<i>Third Quarter, 2010</i>		
	July 2010	<b>Third MSL Landing Site Engineering Assessment Workshop</b>
	July 18–25, 2010 Bremen, GERMANY	<b>38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly</b> Abstract Deadline: Mid-February 2010 Topics: - SC B: The Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System - SC C: The Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets Including Reference Atmospheres - SC D: Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Planetary Magnetospheres - SC F : Astrobiology and Space Science, Including Habitability on Mars : Past, Present & Future - Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP) Contact: <a href="mailto:cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr">cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr</a> <a href="http://www.cospar2010.org/">http://www.cospar2010.org/</a> or <a href="http://www.cospar-assembly.org">http://www.cospar-assembly.org</a>
	July 26-30, 2010 New York, New York, USA	<b>73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Dr. Denton Ebel <a href="http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings">http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings</a>
	July 26-30, 2010 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>2010 Sagan Summer Workshop</b> <a href="http://nexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2010/index.shtml">http://nexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2010/index.shtml</a>
	September 2010	<b>Fourth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop</b>
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2010</i>		
	October 4-8, 2010 Sapporo, JAPAN	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Alfven Conference: Plasma Interaction with Non-Magnetized Planets/Moons and Its Influence on Planetary Evolution</b> <a href="http://www.ep.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/~alfven5/">http://www.ep.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/~alfven5/</a>
	October 18-22, 2010 Madison, Wisconsin, USA	<b>42nd Annual Meeting of the DPS</b> <a href="http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html">http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html</a>
	October 31– November 3, 2010 Denver, Colorado, USA	<b>Geological Society of America National Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/">http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/</a>

	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, California, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings">www.agu.org/meetings</a>
<i>2011</i>		
	March 2011	<b>Fifth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop</b>
	August 2011 Greenwich England, UNITED KINGDOM	<b>74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Gretchen Benedix <a href="http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings">http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings</a>
	October 2011 Nice, FRANCE	<b>43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS</b> <a href="http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html">http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html</a>
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA	<b>Geological Society of America National Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/">http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/</a>
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, California, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings">www.agu.org/meetings</a>
<i>2012</i>		
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	<b>75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Trevor Ireland <a href="http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings">http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings</a>
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	<b>The 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress</b> <a href="http://www.33igc.org/">http://www.33igc.org/</a>
<i>2013</i>		
	July 2013 Pasadena, California, USA	<b>8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology</b>

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

Good Friday	4/10/2009	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012	3/29/2013
Rosh Hashanah	9/19/2009	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012	9/5/2013
Yom Kippur	9/28/2009	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012	9/14/2013
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/26/2009	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012	11/28/2013
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/12/2009	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012	10/14/2013

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, [Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov), 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.