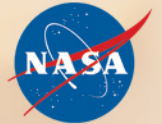


National Aeronautics and Space Administration



To: ExoPAG
From: MEPAG



Michael Meyer
Lead Scientist, Mars Exploration Program



MEPAG Terms of Reference

- The Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) is responsible for providing science input for planning and prioritizing Mars exploration activities.
 - community-based, interdisciplinary forum for analysis in support of Mars exploration objectives
 - provides findings of analyses to NASA through the NASA Advisory Council (the Council) within which the MEPAG Chair is a member of the Planetary Science Subcommittee (PSS).

How

- MEPAG evaluates Mars exploration goals, objectives, investigations, and required measurements on the basis of the widest possible community input
- The Chair of MEPAG is appointed, usually, to a two year term by the NASA Administrator in consultation with Science Mission Directorate (SMD) Associate Administrator
- MEPAG organizes sub-groups to deal with specific issues and reports their findings to the full group (Science Analysis Groups).
- The Chair is assisted by an Executive Secretary and an Executive Committee supports planning activities
- The findings of each meeting and analysis activities are reported to the Planetary Science Subcommittee
- Logistical and organizational support to the MEPAG is provided through SMD and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.





Top Ten Reasons for MEPAG

- MEPAG is an open science community group providing a formal mechanism for establishing and certifying consensus positions for goals and objectives, important in guiding NASA's competitive processes.
- MEPAG fosters a strong working relationship between the scientists and engineers
- MEPAG encourages community input leading to widespread buy-in by the community
- MEPAG's processes are open and committee assignments are rotated
- Through Science Analysis Groups, MEP is able to receive in-depth analyses of topical questions of relevance to mission and program planning
- Chair and executive committee allow for rapid responses
- Well defined linkage between MEPAG and JPL-NASA HQ leads to the MEP actively listening to what MEPAG has to say
- MEPAG is a means of regularly exchanging information
- MEPAG is a valuable forum for maintaining interactions and communications with international colleagues
- MEPAG makes extensive use of volunteers . . . relatively cheap





Science Analysis Groups

- SAG tasks should be fairly specific and clearly defined, but not overly so, such that the answer is not dictated
 - Some continuing guidance can be useful, however, to keep the group on course.
- SAG membership is small but representative of the viewpoints that should be heard
- The topic should be important and timely, with sufficient time to do a good job and produce a product
- There is programmatic follow-through, with an identified customer
- Things to watch out for:
 - Too open-ended a task – tasks should not become standing review boards!
 - Over-using specific individuals—and the community
 - Too many reports can dilute the impact of any one and can discourage participation

