

MEPAG Update


Vicky Hamilton, MEPAG Chair

Planetary Science Advisory Committee Meeting

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Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)



- MEPAG has not held a meeting since the last PAC meeting; we are eagerly awaiting the report of the MSR IRB Response Team (MIRT) in late March and a public discussion of that report at our 24-26 April hybrid meeting in Washington, DC
- Workshop on the value of returned samples (with ExMAG) in April:
<https://www.lpi.usra.edu/mepag/meetings/mepag-exmag-workshop/>
- Feedback from multiple stakeholders inside and outside of NASA indicates that they do not see the PSD science community uniting behind the scientific priorities outlined in our Decadal Survey (e.g., as compared to the Astrophysics community) and thus, the top line Science budget
 - Mixed messages about funding priorities poses a risk to support for all planetary science as well as the Decadal Survey process itself — we should not allow this process to be weakened, even as we strongly advocate for affordable and sustainable funding for all missions, not just MSR
- **MEPAG requests that the PAC reiterate planetary science community support for our Decadal Survey's scientific priorities and the top line NASA Science budget**