



European Mars Science & Exploration Conference: Mars Express & Exomars

The European Mars Science and Exploration Conference (EMSEC): Mars Express and ExoMars will be held at ESA's Technology Centre (ESTEC) at Noordwijk, The Netherlands, on 12-16 November 2007. Then Mars Express will have completed its first extended mission after almost four years in orbit around the Red Planet. This would be an appropriate time to reflect on the many discoveries of Mars Express in all fields, from the Martian interior and subsurface structure to its surface morphology, geology and mineralogy, its atmospheric composition, dynamics and climate, and its interaction with the space environment.

Preparations are gearing up for the next step in the European exploration of Mars with the ExoMars mission, which comprises a capable rover devoted to astrobiological studies with access to the subsurface, and possibly a geophysical package and a scientific and communications orbiter. The ExoMars scientific objectives will be discussed and its instruments presented, and areas where ExoMars could benefit from Mars Express studies, such as landing site selection, will be identified.

The conference will be organized into morning and afternoon oral sessions configured around topical themes, and supporting evening poster sessions. Sessions covering the following areas of interest are envisaged:



- Martian interior and subsurface structure
- Surface morphology, geology and mineralogy
- Atmospheric composition, dynamics and climate
- Ionospheric interaction with space environment
- Orbital and in-situ experiments for ExoMars
- Astrobiology and search for remnants of life



In addition, three specific workshops will take place on the last day of the conference: 1) The meaning of methane on Mars; 2) Planetary cartography techniques; 3) Introduction to ExoMars landing site selection process. Finally, a press event will close the conference. The Scientific Committee will establish the conference programme on the basis of the abstracts received. Time for discussion will be maximized. Drinks and snacks will be provided at the poster sessions. An abstract volume will be produced, as well as an accompanying Proceedings publication. The First Announcement of the conference is available at:

<http://www.rssd.esa.int/mars07/>

For further information regarding the format and scientific objectives of the meeting:

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