

SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM (A3)
Mars Exploration – Part 2 (3B)

Author: Mr. John Vrublevskis
Systems Engineering & Assessment Ltd, United Kingdom, jbv@sea.co.uk

Dr. Caroline Smith
Natural History Museum, United Kingdom, caroline.smith@nhm.ac.uk

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE BAGGING OVER CONVENTIONAL METHODS TO COLLECT AND
RETURN DIFFERENT TYPES OF ROCK SAMPLES ON THE SURFACE OF MARS

Abstract

Convention has that any rock sample collected on the surface of Mars should be collected in a test tube type metallic container for its return to Earth. However this method is complex, high in mass, difficult to seal, difficult to open, and does not provide a ready means to examine the condition of each sample in the receiving facility. This poster examines the advantages and disadvantages of a novel means of sample collection return using bags and makes comparison to conventional approaches.