

SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM (A3)
Mars Exploration - Part 1 (3A)

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MARS EXPLORATION MISSIONS AT THE SPANISH CENTRO DE ASTROBIOLOGIA

Abstract

Mars exploration is a must at the Centro de Astrobiologia in Spain. The perspective of Astrobiology is essential in the design and exploitation of missions to Mars and the main drivers of our approach are presented. Two missions are particularly focusing our attention nowadays: REMS, an integrated meteorological station designed for the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) rover, and RAMAN-LIBS, a spectrometer for the mineralogical analysis of the martian surface. Unfortunately MSL has been recently delayed but the status of the REMS station and the plans for its successful delivery and launch will be presented. On the other hand, RAMAN-LIBS is part of the robotic exploration mission of ESA ExoMars and recently went through the PDR. The status of the instrument and its performances will also be presented.