

SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM (A3)
Mars Exploration – missions current and future (3A)

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MARS 2020 ROVER MISSION STATUS IN 2016

Abstract

Mars 2020, NASA's next Mars rover mission, continues NASA's Mars Exploration Program with a focus on seeking signs of ancient life and helping to prepare for future human explorers. NASA will select a landing site likely to have once been habitable by microbial life and with the geologic record capable of preserving signs of its presence, if it ever existed. The rover will explore the landing site using a powerful set of instruments that support both in situ investigations and the selection of Mars samples to be collected, sealed, and left on the surface of Mars for possible future return. Keywords: Mars, Rover, Lander, 2020, Sample