EAPS Planetary lunch Colloquium Series (PICS)

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Wednesday, September 19thth
12:30pm
E25-605

Selecting the Site for Mars Sample Return for the Mars-2020 Rover Mission

Mars Sample Return is a major endeavor, involving a mission of in situ exploration and sample caching and then later missions to bring the samples to Earth. Where to go: Igneous rocks or sedimentary rocks? What type of environment is best to look for ancient life on Mars? Should the search for ancient life be prioritized or understanding planetary evolution? Can we do both? These are the current questions facing the Mars-2020 rover mission, which in October 2018 will hold the final community workshop with a choice between 3 finalist sites: a lake delta, an ancient >3.7 Ga stratigraphy, and possible fumarolic/spring deposits. This informal discussion will briefly introduce the major characteristics of the Mars-2020 rover, its mission, sample return architecture, and the finalist sites. We'll have at least 15 minutes of discussion (hopefully more). Those who might want to analyze samples returned from Mars are especially encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Jason Soderblom (jms4@mit.edu)

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