

Call for Imaging of Candidate Future Mars Landing Sites:

The Mars Program Offices at NASA Headquarters and The Jet Propulsion Laboratory invite submission of imaging targets for potential new candidate landing sites for future Mars missions. The goal is to gather information on future candidate landing sites while instruments on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) and Mars Odyssey (ODY) are still in operation. Proposed landing sites can be for a variety of future Mars missions (e.g., Sample Return, Network Science), but must include specific but brief statements about the type of mission and mission science objectives, location of the candidate landing ellipse and how it addresses the mission science, and a specific target for imaging by MRO and ODY instruments. Basic information related to engineering constraints (elevation, latitude, rock abundance, thermal inertia, and slopes) should also be provided if known. Image requests for candidate sites for the proposed 2018 mission (http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/reports/2R-iSAG_final.pdf) are encouraged, but image requests for candidate sites for MSL are excluded from consideration. An ellipse size of 10-15 km across will be assumed for missions using MSL heritage landing systems, such as the proposed mission for 2018. Missions using other landing systems must include an ellipse based on expectations from mission concept studies.

Requests for images of potential new candidate landing sites can be submitted through the end of 2010 and should be submitted via e-mail to both John Grant (grantj@si.edu) and Matt Golombek (mgolombek@jpl.nasa.gov) using the abstract template posted at: <http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/> and <http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/msl>. Requests for additional images of previously submitted potential future candidate sites are acceptable, but should show where the new images being requested are located and indicate their importance relative to previous imaging requests. After review, a list of candidate sites will be provided to the MRO, ODY, and Mars Express teams for imaging. It is anticipated that between 80 and 100 images of potential candidate sites can be obtained during 2011 and data will be made available to proposers as soon as images are available. It is anticipated that a dedicated landing site workshop will be held late in 2011 or early 2012 to facilitate discussion of new candidate sites and it is likely that those sites deemed of the highest merit will be selected for additional imaging.

This data call is an unfunded effort, but it is anticipated that a call for proposals (RFP) to support analysis of new candidate landing sites will be issued by Critical Data Products (CDP) Program at JPL in November 2010. It is expected that CDP will fund approximately 10-20 proposals at 25K for one year in early 2011.