



A new international small bodies activity: the Phobos/Deimos Surface Characterization and Site Selection Working Group

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A new international small bodies science working group was established, with space agency and science members from ESA, JAXA, NASA and Roscosmos, to:

- support the JAXA Martian Moon eXploration project (MMX) by encouraging and producing higher-level (3 and 4), derived datasets to support mission design, surface characterization, site selection, mission operations and flight data / sample site context;
- encourage the continuation of existing spacecraft observations from Mars Express, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and Trace Gas Orbiter and new types of observations from other existing missions such as ODY THEMIS IR, MAVEN IUVS, etc.;
- focus higher-level datasets toward MMX but to be equally applicable/useable for other Martian moon missions under study such as the ESA Phootprint and DePhine, Roscosmos Boomerang, NASA Discovery / New Horizons / Cubesat, etc. missions;
- insure that derived datasets are compatible with GIS tools by defining conventions, guidelines and data interchange standards; and
- keep the international science community informed / involved.

The activities and progress of this working group will be presented. To be involved, please contact the lead author.