



ISDC 2026 Session Schedule

Mars

As of 5/18/26

Saturday, June 6 Beverly

- 10:00 am Mars Robotic Exploration: Past, Present, and Future. Ken Ruffin (Didymos Consulting LLC)
- 10:15 am Thirty Years Since Mars-96: Revisiting a Lost Mission of Extraordinary Collaboration and Ambition. Dante Sanaei (Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab)
- 10:25 am The Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover Mission: Science Results, Current Status, and Connections to Future Human Exploration of Mars. Dr. Jim Bell (Arizona State University)
- 10:45 am NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation
- 11:00 am From Mars-Express to Rover Missions. Dr. Bernard Foing (Space Renaissance International)
- 11:20 am ISRU Extreme Cold Energy Storage for Mars: Iron Perchlorate-based Redox Flow Batteries with Deep Eutectic Electrolytes. Chris Liu (Charter School of Wilmington)
- 11:30 am The Anthropian: A New Environmental and Geologic Era on Mars Characterized by Human Impact. Dr. Pascal Lee (SETI Institute, Mars Institute, NASA Ames Research Center)
- 11:40 am Six Arctic Winters: What the Pomori Castaways Teach Us About Surviving Mars. Dr. Erik Seedhouse (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)
- 12:00 noon END
- 2:00 pm The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Report on "A Science Strategy for the Human Exploration of Mars." Dr. Lindy Elkins-Tanton (University of California, Berkeley)
- 2:20 pm Human Space Missions and Space Weather Risks. Dr. Gerald Rabl (Manhattan University)
- 2:30 pm Building Mars Habitats with In Situ Materials. Melodie Yashar (AENARA)
- 2:40 pm Multi-Sensory Virtual Simulations of Mars Exploration. Bryan Versteeg (Spacehabs.com)
- 2:50 pm Haughton-Mars Project: Mars Time-Delayed Human Exploration Mission Operations Protocols. Reef Collins (Mars Institute & University of Central Florida)
- 3:00 pm Distributed Electrical Propulsion UAV Using Blown-Lift for STOL on Mars. Aryan Senthilkumar (Northview High School)
- 3:10 pm Pressurized Rovers for the Moon and Mars: Requirements and Design from Synthesis of Past Studies and Field Exploration Experience. Rachel Long (Mars Institute & University of California, Davis)
- 3:20 pm Pathways on Mars: Preliminary Pressurized Rover Traverses from Noctis Landing to Explore the Stratigraphy of the Noctis Giant Volcano. Scarlett Hartzman (Mars Institute)
- 3:30 pm Mars Tethered Balloon Imaging and Laser Range-Finding Navigation and Mapping System for Future Robotic and Human Exploration. Leonardo Gámez Cuéllar (Mars Institute & Tecnológico de Monterrey)
- 3:40 pm Red Planet, Green Future: Defining Durability of Coconut Coir for Plant Growth in Simulated Perchlorate Stressed Martian Regolith. Sindhoora Vemula & Ananya Ram (NSS North Texas Chapter)
- 3:50 pm Will China Beat Elon to Mars? Art Harman (The Coalition to Save Manned Space Exploration)
- 4:00 pm Don't Forget Mars! Dr. Douglas Gage (XPM Technologies)
- 4:10 pm NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation
- 4:25 pm Panel: Moon to Mars: Thinking Ahead. Dr. Lindy Elkins-Tanton (UC Berkeley), Dr. Jim Bell (Arizona State University), Dr. Bernard Foing (Space Renaissance International), Dr. Douglas Gage (XPM Technologies), and Keith Cowing (NASA Watch). Moderator: Dr. Pascal Lee (National Space Society).
- 5:10 pm Fireside Chat with Dr. Harrison H. "Jack" Schmitt (Apollo 17): From the Moon to Mars. Moderators: Dr. Pascal Lee (SETI Institute, Mars Institute & NASA Ames Research Center) & Rod Pyle (National Space Society)
- 6:00 pm END