



# NASA and the COSPAR PPP

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Presented to Committee on Planetary Protection Fall 2023 Meeting

October 20, 2023

# NASA and the COSPAR Planetary Protection Panel (PPP)



# Recent PPP Publications

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► Zorzano et al., *The COSPAR Planetary Protection Requirements for Space Missions to Venus.*

▷ NASA endorsed decision to not change policy for missions to Venus at this time.

► Ollson-Frances et al, *The COSPAR Planetary Protection Policy for missions to Mars: ways forward based on current science and knowledge gaps*

▷ NASA endorsed call for continued research to close knowledge gaps and science-based tailoring of approaches for specific missions to achieve a transparent and responsible process to enable mission concepts that advance standards and practices.

# NASA Support of Planetary Protection Policy Restructuring Initiative

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- ▶ **Restructuring and modernization is necessary to enhance utility as an international standard**
  - ▷ Improve clarity of the document
  - ▷ Trace guidelines to clearly stated fundamental PP objectives
  - ▷ Enable evolution of planetary protection, including human spaceflight, and capture lessons learned
  - ▷ Make guidelines current and hardware agnostic
  - ▷ Consider and engage commercial operators
  - ▷ Revisit approaches to promote transparency



# Closing Thoughts

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- ▶ **NASA recognizes importance of COSPAR's Planetary Protection Policy to scientific and public interests**
  - ▷ International standard is needed to reduce risk of unwanted events, motivate collective action, and promote transparency
- ▶ **Policy restructuring initiative promises to clarify goals, principles, and assumptions**
  - ▷ Necessary step towards recognition of advanced mission concepts and planetary protection practices
- ▶ **Collaboration through the Panel is vital to development of PP measures for crewed missions to Mars**
  - ▷ Leveraging knowledge gap workshop series to promote and coordinate R&TD efforts
  - ▷ Engagement for timely and enabling policy development for challenging missions