

# **“Solar System Exploration @ 50”**

## **Second Announcement – Note Change of Dates**

### **Call for Papers**

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the first successful planetary mission, Mariner 2 sent to Venus, the NASA History Program Office, the Division of Space History at the National Air and Space Museum, the NASA Science Mission Directorate, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory invite papers for a conference relating to the history of planetary exploration. This historical symposium will be held in Washington, D.C., on 25-26 October 2012.

Entitled “Solar System Exploration @ 50,” the purpose of this symposium is to consider, over the more than fifty year history of the space age, what we have learned about the other bodies of the solar system and the process whereby we have learned it. This symposium seeks to pursue broader questions relating to the history of planetary exploration such as:

- The various flight projects and their broader implications for the exploration of other solar system bodies.
- The development of space science disciplines and institution building.
- The big questions of planetary science and what has been learned in the fifty years of planetary exploration.
- The relationships of organizations/international, civil/military, etc., one to another.
- The relationship between robotic exploration and human spaceflight.
- Managing the space science community and setting priorities for missions, instruments, and knowledge generation.
- The manner in which scientific knowledge has been acquired, refined, analyzed, and disseminated over time.
- The development of theories about planetary science, solar system origins and implications for other worlds.
- The development of instruments and methodologies for scientific exploration.
- Analysis of the science of solar system origins and evolution.

Possible topics are not restricted to these major themes. All papers are envisioned as scholarly contributions exploring broad thematic issues and questions.

Contributions from international scholars and graduate students with an interest in history are welcome.

Some travel support scholarships may be available for international scholars and graduate students. Please indicate your interest in a need statement included with your paper proposal.

We intend that a subset of the papers will merit publication.

Proposals for papers should include a title and abstract, as well as the author's curriculum vita, and travel support need statement (as appropriate). Please send all proposals, in the form of a 300 word abstract and a brief vita electronically to Dr. William P. Barry, NASA Chief Historian, at [bill.barry@nasa.gov](mailto:bill.barry@nasa.gov), and Dr. Roger D. Launius, Senior Curator in Space History at the National Air and Space Museum, [launiusr@si.edu](mailto:launiusr@si.edu). **The deadline for abstract submissions is 21 February 2012.**