

SELECTING A LANDING SITE FOR HUMANS ON MARS

Richard Davis, NASA Headquarters (richard.m.davis@nasa.gov)

Sending humans to Mars is a top NASA priority, and the Agency believes that such missions will significantly expand the amount of science which can be accomplished on the planet.

In 2016 NASA held the first ever landing site workshop to pick a landing site on Mars for human surface exploration of the Red Planet. Proposed landing sites provide access to Exploration Zones (EZs) which are regions on Mars that contain multiple sites of scientific interest as well as satisfying engineering and human constraints for human exploration.

A major goal of this effort is to leverage Mars Recon-

naissance Orbiter (MRO) data collection capabilities to acquire data of potential prioritized human Mars landing sites.

The effort is also being used to inform future reconnaissance needs at Mars—orbital and landed missions HLS2 is a joint Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD) / Science Mission Directorate (SMD) study.

The presentation will provide an overview of the effort to date, lessons learned and next steps being pursued by the Agency to accelerate this process.