



NASA and the COSPAR PPP

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NASA Safety of Mission and Assurance

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NASA and the COSPAR Planetary Protection Panel (PPP)



Recent PPP Publications

► **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

- ▶ **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

- ▶ **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