



Adelaide Section
American Institute of Aeronautics
and Astronautics



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND

AUSTRALIA

Mechanical Engineering Division
School of Engineering

AIAA Distinguished Lecturer Visit to Australia



Exploring Mars : The Journey of the Mars Exploration Rovers

Dr Mark Adler

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

NEW VENUE ... Rm T203

Room T203, Hawken Engineering Building (50)
The University of Queensland, St. Lucia
Refer map at <http://www.uq.edu.au/maps>

Wednesday 17th October 2007
5:30pm for 6:00pm
Refreshments provided

Abstract

The Mars Exploration Rovers left Earth in mid 2003 and landed on the planet Mars in January 2004. Since then they have been examining evidence of an ancient Mars that had liquid water at the surface billions of years ago, and that may have had the necessary conditions to support life. The talk will cover why Mars is such an interesting place to explore scientifically and culturally, a short history of Mars exploration by spacecraft, what the Mars Exploration Rovers look like and how they work, how they were designed, built, and tested, how they are operated on Mars, what scientific discoveries they have made, and the current status and prospects for their future. The talk will end with an overview of our future planned and imagined missions to Mars.

Speaker

Dr Mark Adler was the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit Mission Manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Starting in 2000, he was responsible for the Mission System of the Rover project and the operations of the Spirit rover en route to Mars through the primary and first extended surface mission in 2004. Prior to the Rover project, Mark worked on the Mars Sample Return project as chief engineer and as the program architect for the Mars Exploration Program. Mark began his work at JPL as the Cassini Lead Mission Engineer from 1992-1996 and is currently the Chief Mission Concept Architect at JPL.

Mark received his B.A. in Mathematics from the University of Florida in 1981 as well as his M.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1985. In 1990 he earned his Ph.D. in Physics from the California Institute of Technology. Mark also spent time at Hughes Aircraft Company working as a Staff Physicist and the Advanced Technology Section Head, both as part of the Space and Communications Group.

All Welcome

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