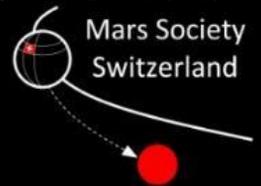


Trace Gas Orbiter: The Search For Life On Mars

Anton Ivanov, Space Engineering Center

March. 16th 2016, 18h-19h30
EPFL – HALL CO 1
Free admission



The main objective of the Trace Gas Orbiter, as announced by ESA, is to search for any "activity" upon the surface of Mars through the study of its trace gases. By "activity" is understood any biological process or inner thermal/chemical planetary process having an effect upon the atmosphere. The purpose of this presentation will be to draw a general outline of the accumulated knowledge within which this mission is being conducted and to show that indeed it is possible that Life existed once on Mars. Alternatively, considering the environmental conditions prevailing along the last 3.5 billion years, the process of evolution might not have had time to succeed in reaching that level of complexity.

Bio

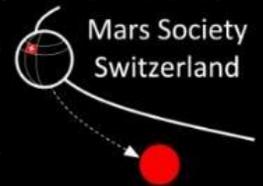
Dr. Anton Ivanov is a scientist with the EPFL Space Center (eSpace) in Lausanne, Switzerland. He is a co-investigator with the CASSIS science team, project manager for the CubETH Cubesat project, study leader for the CHEOPS satellite and is responsible for the Minor in Space Technologies at EPFL. After receiving his PhD in Planetary Science from Caltech in 2000, Dr. Ivanov joined the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to contribute to Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey, Mars Express and Mars Science Laboratory projects. Dr. Ivanov joined the EPFL Space Center in 2007.



Trace Gas Orbiter: The Search For Life On Mars

Pierre Brisson, Mars Society Switzerland

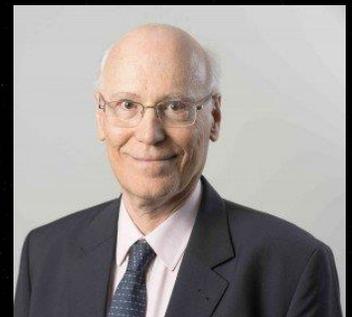
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Bio

Pierre Brisson was one of the founding members of the US Mars Society in 1998. He became member of the board of its French branch ("Association Planète Mars") in 2003 and re-founded its Swiss branch ("Mars Society Switzerland") in 2009. He graduated as an economist (Master of Arts of the University of Virginia) and worked worldwide as a corporate banker in a major French institution but has always been an "amateur" planetologist. He is regularly organizing or giving conferences in Switzerland and France to spread the idea that Mankind must intensify its robotic and inhabited missions to Mars. He is also contributing one post each week in his blog "exploration spatiale" hosted by Swiss French speaking newspaper Le Temps.



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