COSPAR 2021

43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly

28 January – 4 February 2021

Connecting space research for global impact

www.cospar2021.org

EVENT MANAGEMENT BY ICMS AUSTRALASIA PTY LTD

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS 1966-2021

MEDIA RELEASE

Free Public Lecture – what it's like to work on the M2020 Mars Mission - Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Australian scientist and now Deputy Program Scientist of NASA's Mars2020 rover mission, Dr Adrian Brown, will give a Public Lecture tomorrow as part of the 43rd Committee on Space Research Scientific Assembly being held virtually in Sydney.

Dr Brown's presentation will be online from midday tomorrow (Tuesday, February 2) followed by a live Q&A.

On February 18 NASA will land its latest rover on the Red Planet. This $2.46 billion mission will arrive at Jezero Crater, a location on Mars that scientists believe is 3.81 billion years old.

In this presentation, Dr Adrian Brown will discuss the aspects of this mission that make it the most exciting Mars mission yet. He will specifically discuss:

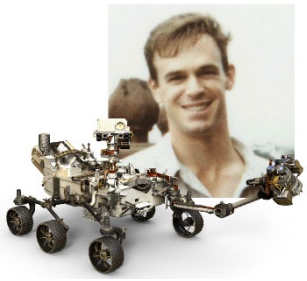
- The Jezero delta system, which is the first delta NASA has landed at on Mars and why that is important
- The Australian rock that is flying on the rover to Mars and why it was important enough to be chosen to be the first Aussie landing on Mars
- The Mars Helicopter, the first drone to the red planet
- The Supercam laser system which are the rover's main tools to determine the best samples
- The rover's sample collection system, which is crucial for picking the best rocks

The Mars2020 rover will collect a suite of samples that will be extensively catalogued and cached for a period on the surface of Mars. These samples will eventually be returned to Earth by the Mars Sample Return mission, which is currently slated for launch in 2026, with samples return in 2031.

Dr Adrian Brown will talk about what we expect to learn from the returned samples and how his work in Australia on 3.5 billion year old rocks has helped NASA to prepare for the first intentional return of Martian rocks to Earth.

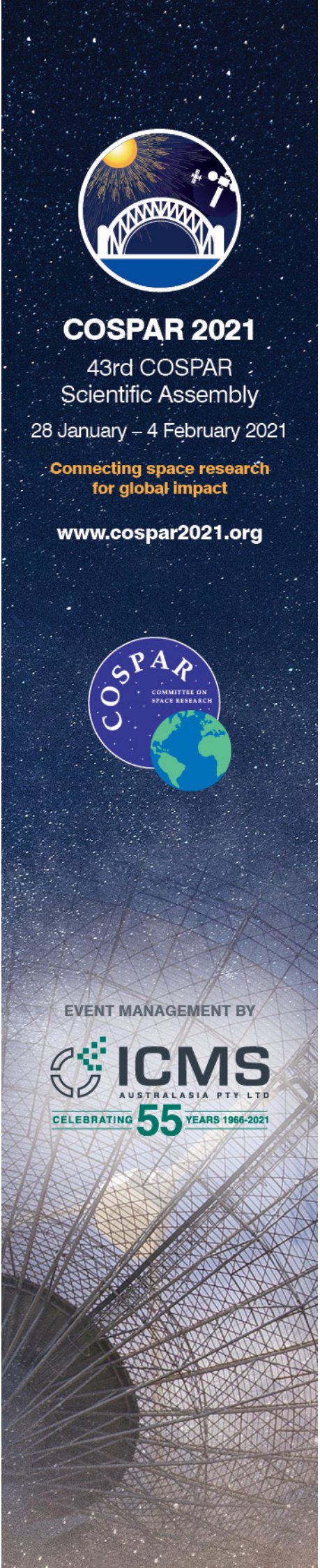
Watch live Tuesday, February 2, 2021 12:00 – 13:10 AEDT
https://cospar2021.org/public-lecture

About Dr Adrian Brown



Dr Adrian Brown is currently working as a planetary science researcher at the NASA Headquarters in Washington D.C. where he is the Deputy Program Scientist on the Mars2020 rover mission. Dr Brown's fields of research include Mars, astrobiology and remote sensing spectroscopy and has a background in computer science and electrical engineering.

Dr Brown is a fully qualified private pilot and has used this skill to enhance his knowledge of remote sensing by flying over study regions in Western Australia.



He holds current endorsements on C172 and Piper Warrior single engine aircraft. He is qualified in remote first aid and as an outback four wheel drive exponent and served with the Royal Australian Navy as a Weapons Engineer and Fire Control Officer on Her Majesty's Australian Ships CANBERRA and ARUNTA, in addition to numerous shore postings around Australia.

He completed his PhD in Earth and Planetary Science at Macquarie University, in Sydney, Australia.

After completing his PhD, Dr Brown was selected as a 2006 NASA Postdoctoral Scholar at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif. He then became a research scientist at the non-profit SETI Institute where he conducted planetary science research, primarily on Mars using the CRISM instrument on NASA's MRO spacecraft. While at the SETI Institute, Adrian ran the research and public SETI Seminar series and was the program chief for the SETICON II convention.

About COSPAR

Headquartered in France and established in 1958, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) aims to further the research, exploration, and the peaceful use of outer space through international cooperation.

About the 43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly

The COSPAR Scientific Assembly is held on a rotational basis between countries every two years. This year's theme – Connecting Space Research for Global Impact – is an opportunity for Australia to broaden its footprint in space research at a time when Australia's space sector, assisted by the Australian Space Agency, is rapidly gathering momentum. COSPAR-2021 will provide Australian companies, scientists and researchers with an opportunity to showcase their expertise to a global audience.

Visit www.cospar2021.org for further details.

Further Information

Scientific & technical enquiries

Professor Russell Boyce, COSPAR-2021 Chair, and
Director of UNSW Canberra Space
E: russell.boyce@adfa.edu.au

Media

Brad Foster – ICMS Australasia
(COSPAR-2021 Professional Conference Organiser)
E: bradf@icmsaust.com.au
P: +61 447 040 333