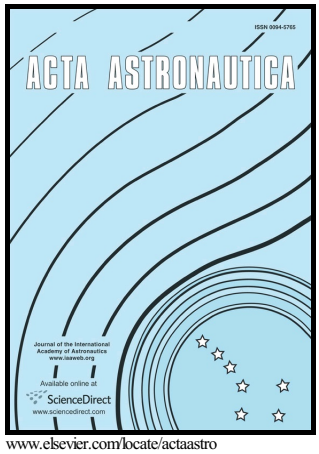

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R.A. Yingst, J. Berger, B.A. Cohen, B. Hynek, M.E. Schmidt

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R. A. Yingst[1]*, J. Berger[2], B. A. Cohen[3], B. Hynek[4], M.E. Schmidt[5]

[1]Planetary Science Institute, 1700 E. Ft. Lowell, Suite 106, Tucson, AZ 85719 USA
[2]Department of Earth Sciences, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, N6A 5B7, Canada
[3]NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, VP62, 320 Sparkman Dr., Huntsville AL 35805 USA
[4]Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics and Geological Sciences, University of Colorado, 392 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309 USA
[5]Dept. of Earth Sciences, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON, L2S 3A1, Canada

yingst@psi.edu
jeffberger@cpsx.uwo.ca
barbara.a.cohen@nasa.gov
hynek@lasp.colorado.edu
mschmidt2@brocku.ca

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +920-360-3627; 920-465-2376

Abstract

We tested science operations strategies developed for use in remote mobile spacecraft missions, to determine whether reconnoitering a site of potential habitability prior to in-depth study (a walkabout-first strategy) can be a more efficient use of time and resources than the linear approach commonly used by planetary rover missions. Two field teams studied a sedimentary sequence in Utah to assess habitability potential. At each site one team commanded a human “rover" to execute observations and conducted data analysis and made follow-on decisions based solely on those observations. Another team followed the same traverse using traditional terrestrial field methods, and the results of the two teams were compared. Test results