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| Marguerite Syvertson | Program Office--JPL |

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| --- | --- |
| **Source of Carbon** | **Carbon compounds. examples/comments** |
| Abiotic molecules from meteoritic / cometary influx | Amino acids, purines and pyrimidines, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, chain hydrocarbons, fatty acids, sugars and sugar derivatives. |
| Prebiotic/abiotic molecules from synthesis reaction process on Mars | Amino acids, purines and pyrimidines, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, chain hydrocarbons, fatty acids, sugars and sugar derivatives. |
| Terrestrial contaminating organics | Condensation products derived from rocket exhaust, lubricants, plasticizers, atmospheric contaminants |
| Terrestrial contaminating organisms | Whole cells, cell components (LPS, DNA, proteins, cytochromes) found on AFL itself. |
| Terrestrial like organisms – from Earth | Organisms not present on the craft measuring them, but had been previously transferred from Earth by either meteorite impact or contamination of previous spacecraft. Target molecules could include individual genes, membrane constituents, specific enzymes, and co-enzymes that would be expected to be over expressed or adapted in Martian conditions |
| Terrestrial-like organisms – evolved on Mars | Organisms that utilize terrestrial like biochemistries and have evolved on Mars Target molecules could include individual genes, membrane constituents, specific enzymes, and co-enzymes that would be expected to be over expressed or adapted in Martian conditions or organisms using metabolisms that would not be present on a space craft contaminant such as methanogens, psychrophiles endolithic survival mechanisms. |
| Non-terrestrial-like organisms | Utilizes an array of molecules for information storage, information transfer, compartmentalization and enzymatic activity that differ from those used by extant terrestrial life. Examples would be the use of novel amino acids and nucleotides or the use of novel nitrogen utilization strategies. |
| Fossil biomarkers | Detection of established terrestrial fossil biomarkers such as hopanes, archaeal lipids and steranes, for the detection of the diagenetic remains of terrestrial based life. Characterization of potential breakdown products that can be reasonably extrapolated from the detection of molecules comprising an extant Martian life form. Detection of the diagenesis products of extinct Martian organism based on carbon compositions consistent with biological fractionation of a narrow range of abiotic precursors. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **% Total Weight (or mass C x10-13 g)** | **Number of Types** | **Preservation** |
| **Water** | 70 (NA) | 1 | Unknown in Organic and mineral phases |
| **Proteins** | 15 | ~2000 | 1000’s without protection by a mineral matrix. ~45Ma with protection?. |
| **Nucleic Acids** |  |  |  |
| DNA | 1 | 2+ | Oldest ? ~350,000 |
| RNA | 6 | (see below) | Days – Months (studies on longevity of RNA other than in clinical settings have not been performed. |
| *rRNA* | 5.5 | 3 | Days – Months |
| *tRNA* | 0.1 | ~32 | Days – Months |
| *mRNA* | 0.3 | 1000’s | Days – Months |
| *Non coding RNA* | 0.1 | 1000’s | Days – Months |
| **Polysaccharides** | ~1 | Uncounted | Chitin - 25Ma. Exopolymer sheaths ~2Ga |
| **Lipids** | 2 | ~50 | Cell wall components - Hopanes 2.7Ga |
| **Amino acids** | 0.4 | ~100 (20 main ones) | As protein diagenesis – Ma.  Chiral signal in fossils lost after ~ 1 Ma. |
| **Sugars** | ~3 | ~200 | Days to weeks (see polysaccharides) |
| **Other small organics** | 0.2 | ~200 | Porphyrins ~ 2 Ga |
| **Inorganic species (C, H, N, O, Fe, P, S etc).** | 1 (~100% dry weight) | ~20 – 30 (including inorganic complexes) | Isotopes may preserved for ? 3.5 Ga for C.  Research is continuing to define other isotope systematics for preservation of a biogenic signature. |
| **Diagenetic Macromolecular material** | Total cell breakdown products (100% dry weight of cells) | Kerrogens (4 types)  Melanoidins (100’s) | Kerrogens – ? 3.5Ga for biogenic (Type 1-3). Type 4 indicative of meteoritic input.  Melanoidins conbination of sugar and proteins, ~50 Ma. |

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chilled in order to identify regions of interest, since the XRD can do infinite number of samples. When an interesting sample is identified it can be further processed via the other analytical instrumentation.

Regolith:

Regolith material would be obtained by a scoop attached to the rover arm and be delivered to sample processing facility. It is worth considering that if the regolith material is unconsolidated, we may assume that it was never in contact with the atmosphere. If it was at some point in the recent past, it could mean that it would be chemically the same as the surface material, and hence not worthy of a drilling effort. Unless the rover is going to head to a site where larger amounts of near surface (to the depth of the drill) water drilling into regolith would be desirable, otherwise it most likely is not.

### 8.3.2 Sedimentary deposits:

If a landing site were selected where drilling into for sedimentary deposits is required, it would be preferable to look at the entire core length. If a complete core could not be obtained because of engineering constraints, having a borehole instruments that can be lowered into the borehole, and examining the entire length of it would be very desirable. Instruments that could be utilized to answer astrobiologically relevant questions (rather then pure geologic questions) would need to be identified. In this scenario it might be worthwhile considering a drill/corer combination, where a drill takes 5 cm cores at a time, delivers to the sample processing facility and be lowered back into the borehole and continue drilling to the desired depth. The ocean drilling industry has begun to develop instrumentation for borehole instrumentation where a geophysics package of instrumentation examines the bore hole. Further development along these lines would be invaluable to any drilling that would take place on Mars.

### 8.3.3 Precision sampling of a core

Once a core has been obtained, it would be injected it into a sample triage station. On this station we would like to look down the axis of the core with the contact suite of instruments, especially if the core was delivered intact. This way layering structures can be identified that might be indicative for a sedimentary material or any other area of interest in any type of sample. After the initial analysis, it is not necessarily desirable to process the entire core in an instrument like the rock crusher. If any regions/layers of interest have been identified in the core, these layers would be diluted/mixed with the other less-interesting layers, and thus make the analysis of the core material give results that are not necessarily indicative of a specific region. Furthermore, the rock crushing mechanisms could produce material that is not necessarily representative of the entire core, due to the crushing mechanism. Simply put, a precision sample handling system needs to be developed that is much more advanced then the rock crushers on MSL. This precision sample handling system would most likely replace the rock crushers on MSL as they are currently designed, because there most likely is not enough mass to have both type of instruments aboard.

The precision sample handling system would need to produce fines from a core that are on the order of 100 m, although finer material is always preferable. These fines would need to be produced from regions of the core that are less then 1 cm in length. Although an exact amount of samples that would be useful for each analytical instrument cannot be accurately defined without knowing what instruments have been chosen, a good working number is 100 mg.

A further developed system for AFL would allow for fines to be obtained from various parts of the core, where astrobiologically interesting signatures were observed. These fines then could be identified by the contact suite or by analysis of the fines that were collected during the coring. A possible method this material can be obtained is via a pneumatic drill, analogous to a dentist drill. This type of sample processing of a core needs to be further addressed, as it may require holding the core so that further processing can occur. If the core would be held in a fixed position, a grinder could grind parts of the core while those fines are collected. Any other material that is produced from this step could be looked at with a microscopic imager, if one is chosen as apart of the science payload, but no further analytical analysis of it would need to be made.

### 8.3.4 Ice Samples

Terrestrial organisms can maintain a layer of liquid water around them in an environment where the temperature is below the freezing value for that corresponding pressure. Therefore, one of the main science investigations with ice is to determine if there is any liquid water in a sample. In addition, volatile material present in the sample might undergo reaction and hence change its form, which might lead to incomplete analysis of the obtained sample. Because of these reasons, it seems desirable to obtain a sample without allowing the temperature to pass above conditions in which phase transition that any water (and potential brine solution) present would undergo for the ambient pressure and temperatures present. From permafrost, it is expected that a core approximately 5 cm long and 1 cm diameter would be sufficient for further studies, however, a larger core would likely allow more comprehensive analysis to be performed. With permafrost samples, the possibility should be considered to include a sample concentration device in the sample possessing suite. This concentration process would only take place after any measurement on liquid H2O on the pristine sample has been performed.

The overall strategy for a “polar” mission largely depends on the choice of landing site, i.e. whether it is permafrost or on the polar cap. If a polar region is decided upon, it is suggested that the obtained ice core is analyzed as a whole, especially if only 5 x 1 cm core are obtained. This based on the assumption that the recent ice deposits will not show much evidence of layering or zoning. However, should new data become available through *Phoenix* investigations, this approach may have to be restructured and a more capable precision sub-sampling system be integrated into this mission concept.

### 8.3.5 Liquid and Heat extraction of organics

Organic analysis has been one of the important measurements the Astrobiology Science Steering Group has identified that AFL should be able to perform. In order to identify organic material, they need to be released from the matrix material they are a part of, especially since surface organics on Mars might be very rare. Several ways to extract organics form rock samples were discussed, including using heat and solvent extractions. Each extraction technique has its advantages and disadvantages. However, it is currently not clear whether there would be enough mass to be able to perform both techniques on the same mission. Also, in an extended surface mission (~900 days), which is powered by a nuclear power source, either extraction technique would need to demonstrate that it can perform analysis on a large number of samples (exact number TBD) that such a mission would be able to collect. Different materials require different extraction strategies. For example, some liquid extractions will miss kerogen type material because of its high molecular weight and low solubility, while heat will destroy most of the more fragile biomarkers such as amino acids or hopanes, resulting in the loss of important molecular information. MSL will, most likely, have some form of heat extraction, although what this will look like will be dependent on the instrumentation that is chose for that mission.

Generally, more refractory, fossil, nonpolar compounds require organic solvent extraction. The choice of solvent depends largely on the polarity of the target compounds. Solvents commonly used are for example hexane, dichloromethane, toluoene, methanol, ethylacetate, propanol, or mixtures thereof. It is necessary to identify mixtures that have highest extraction efficiencies and at the same time covering the broadest possible polar-nonpolar stretch. Organic solvents would be needed for GC/MS sample preparation (and to some degree HPLC but this varies depending on column design and target compounds; H2O and methanol are commonly used as eluents, but could also be acetonitrile, dioxane, ethanol, isopropanol, etc.), in order to obtain molecular information from refractory compounds.

Aqueous solvents (such as super critical water) would be used for amino acid, DNA/protein extraction e.g. for microarray analyses, capillary electrophoresis, culturing experiments, flow cytometry or perhaps even PCR. Numerous proprietary and commercially available extraction kits exist using a variety of different solvent compositions, all being aqueous solutions. It would be required to identify optimized procedures and optimized solvents and/or solvent combinations in future laboratory experiments, e.g. using Mars analogue materials spiked with microbial cells and/or organic target compounds.

Other extraction technologies are currently available and need to be examined more in the context of Mars missions these techniques are not limited to but include; microwave, super critical gas (i.e CO2) ultrasonic and sublimation.

It is important to point out here that no judgment is made on which extraction technique is preferable. This is simply an attempt to identify which technique (if either) can be made a facility instrument aboard AFL, and hence have several instruments analyze the extract from the surface samples. Currently, different instrument developers focus on developing extraction techniques for their individual instruments. These techniques do not necessarily have much overlap from instruments to instrument. If consensus could be formed that a particular set of extraction mechanism is desirable (i.e. utilizing H2O at 100oC) it could necessitate a facility instrument to perform that extraction and pass the extract to different instrumentation. This would accomplish reduced mass and power requirements, as well as allow for several instruments to analyze the exact same sample.

Extraction conditions are currently being investigated utilizing different techniques solvents and temperatures. However, the extraction mechanisms need to demonstrate that they are small and repeatable. Null-results from AFL can have great meaning, but they need to be absolute and definable. The Viking GC/MS results showed no organics, but those results don’t necessarily mean there were no organics in the soil that was analyzed. The GC/MS has limits of detection that can be easily determined for single species. However recent work has demonstrated that the Viking ovens were set to a temperature that would have not released certain organics that could have been present in the soil (Glavin et al., 2001). In addition other types of organics could have been destroyed by the heat, and thus not detected. In order to determine what a possible null-result means, an end-to-end analysis would need to be carried out.

Pyrolysis heating:

The Viking landers each had ovens as part of the GC/MS system, although the ovens themselves were not able to reach the temperature necessary to detect some of the organics that could exist there. The Rosetta mission has a small oven, Phoenix has the TEGA, which has eight one-time-only use ovens attached to an EGA and a MS. MSL is intended to investigate multiple samples (24 floor, 78 goal) and has baselined a GC/MS as an instrument. If the development of a multi-use oven is not made, then it would require a ground decision as to whether or not to analyze a sample, if only a limited number of samples that can be analyzed. This would necessitate a science decision, which could delay other analysis on the surface, and limit the number of overall sites that can be visited.

Another prospect of the pyrolysis method is whether it could be designed in such a way that it is capable of concentrating signatures on a sorption trap. If so, any use of those traps will also have to be shown for the same number of samples that the rover will analyze. Also, as mentioned previously, all limits of detection should be for the entire end-to-end system, for a variety of different mineralogical samples.

Liquid extraction:

Liquid extraction is a more gentle way to extract organic molecules from rock and soil samples. One analogy to Martian surface investigations is the analysis of organics from meteoritic material. In those investigations, the organic molecules were released by either hot water extraction or by HCl extraction. Current development of novel techniques for the extraction of exophase biomarkers needs to continue, as does the determining the most efficient solvent extraction parameters. Should a sample be analyzed for its indigenous water content, it might require using another, yet to be determined, technique. In addition, different solvents can extract different types of molecules, water, as it approaches the critical point, becomes a good organic solvent. Clearly, more science groundwork has to be carried out to obtain comprehensive information to allow the best possible choice of solvents to be used. Other solvents that are used in the laboratory include HCl and other acids. These acids perform a more complete digestion of the matrix material, and increase efficiency of extraction, but are harder to handle because of their corrosive nature. With any solvent that is chosen for this step it should be noted that it would be able to concentrate the material to ensure a better signal to noise level.

It is currently unclear whether the liquid sample handling system needs to be completely reusable or whether one-time only use should be the preferred option. This information will become available as experimentation and technology development continues. The only stipulation that needs to be made is that the extraction technique minimizes mass and power resources.

Finally, there are other measurements that can be made during the extraction phase, which would not be possible during pyrolysis heating. These include pH, Redox potential of the material, etc. All of these measurements can help elucidate habitability issues and are an extra measurement that can be made, and if the liquid extraction step is a facility instrument should be made.

### 8.3.6 Contamination concerns

There are two issues that need to be addressed from for contamination concerns:

Contamination issues from organisms brought from Earth

Cross sample contamination

The issue of terrestrial contamination being detected and identified, as material present on a Martian sample is, by far, the main concern. Several different mechanisms can help reduce the possibility of this.

A sterile sample can be brought from Earth and run through the system for the first analysis to show that the end-to-end system is clean and contamination free. If this step produced positive results, it will show that the sample system was not clean and would have to be cleaned e.g. by flushing with a sterile material blank. After the initial sterile material is analyzed, surface dust could be analyzed next. This material is most likely sterile due to UV irradiation and is most likely homogenous across the planet. After the analysis of such sample through the entire system, this material can be used as a negative check for the entire system. If a sample is later found to have the signatures of life, analyzing another soil sample can perform a negative response check of those results, which will further validate the biosignatures that might have been identified.

The other form of contamination is sample to sample. While it should be noted that a general cleaning between samples should be performed, reducing the cross sample contamination should not be a major power and mass drain, which could be better used in other systems.

## 8.4. Time resolved Measurements

For some versions of AFL, time-separated repeat measurements (to observe changes) will be valuable, and these were strongly advocated by some members of the SSG. Given current understanding of Mars, we do not know enough to design the time gap that would be needed in such an experiment (minutes?, hours?, days?, months?), or the fidelity to which the subsequent experiment(s) needs to duplicate the conditions of the first in order to provide a meaningful hypothesis test. The AFL SSG takes the position that time-separated repeat measurements are not essential to all versions of AFL.  Thus, this should not be a part of the common overall mission scientific objectives. The AFL SSG recommends that the capability to do at least some time-separated repeat measurements be a general functionality of the surface science system, and that the decision on how and when to use it be deferred to the competitive process***.***

# 9.0Engineering analysis of AFL core

Based on input from the AFL SSG, a preliminary engineering design concept was defined so that basic mission parameters (such as mass, cost and power generation systems) could be developed. This was done so that technology developments that will be required to undertake the mission could be identified and pursued. This design concept was based upon the AFL SSG core mission requirement and included possible investigation of sedimentary, hydrothermal and liquid water regions. Other investigation (namely to ice covered and sub-surface ice regions) may require a different architecture and hence have a different mass, cost, and power generation systems. The mission architecture was defined by taking into account the measurement objectives, payload infrastructure rover mobility requirements and lander capabilities (Section 8). Given all these requirements and capabilities, a core AFL mission was developed.

The mission studied included 2 instruments for remote sensing placed on the main mast, 2 contact instruments located on an instrument deployment device (IDD), and 6 analytical laboratory instruments capable of analyzing samples obtained from the Martian surface for a total of 10 instruments. The analytical instruments, as well as the sample acquisition and processing infrastructure, will be able to process 25-75 physical samples (rock, regolith, and ice) for detailed analyses by both pyrloysis and wet chemistry instrumentation. Landers, Entry Descent Landing (EDL), cruise launcher, were defined in such a way to meet the mission requirements and so that costing the rover and mission could be done. In order to accomplish this, a list of generic instruments were identified so that parameters such as cost, mass, volume, and power requirements could be included in the engineering design concept. No attempt was made to identify and place individual instruments on the strawman payload (used to assess cost only) and where several instrument from different developers were identified, average mass power and volumes were used.

The engineering design concept assumed a launch in either 2013 or 2018 with a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 6 for instruments and subsystem technologies that would have to be reached by 2009 and 2014 respectively. Functional redundancy was required on all subsystems except for the science payload, and this included the sample acquisition and processing infrastructure. Landing site availability for the AFL SSG included access to the Martian surface between: +85 to –60 so that access to both ice regions as well as a wide variety of potential Sedimentary and hydrothermal regions can also be investigated. Landing altitudes of 2.5 km or less relative to the MOLA geoid should be reached within a 10x10 km (3-sigma) landing dispersion ellipse assumed for landing. Because AFL will be assumed to be a mission to a specific site of high scientific interest, rover was designed with “Go-to” mobility capabilities of 10-15 km (linear traverse range) so most astrobiology interesting sites could be reached and explored. For data transmission between Earth and Mars, either MTO or the second generation Mars Telecom Orbiter (MTO) was assumed to be available for Mars to Earth telecom greatly increasing the amount of data that could be acquired on the mission. The collected data would be passed to Earth via 0.3 m HGA for 1024 kbps link via MTO. This design allowed for a data intensive 1-3 GBits of daily science data generation. X-Band from rover direct to Earth (DTE) would be used for back-up purposes only. Finally the main power system of the mission was assumed to be a Radioisotopic Thermal Generator (RTG) system, although solar power could also be utilized for missions that are more equatorial, and potentially shorter in duration (depending on final MER mission power results). The power systems was sized to be able to provide sufficient power with reserves for “worst case” extreme drive Sols (large rocks and slopes) and for analytical laboratory days. Based on this analysis a 4 Brick Small RPS system capable of producing 50We, or 1200WeHRS per sol in combination with a 2 x 8 Ahr-Li-Ion battery system was chosen. Because of the inefficiencies in power generation from an RPS system waste heat has to be dissipated. Therefore, A passive thermal loop system driven by the 1000Wt energy from the RTG system, in combination with electrical heaters, thermal switches, and radiators was designed for the rover for keeping the Warm Electronic Box (WEB), external actuators, and instruments at acceptable temperatures ranges. The passive thermal system on the rover would in combination also be used for dissipating energy from the RTG system the during EDL and cruise stages.

To generate the required science and analyze 25-75 samples, accommodate the selected science payload strawman and provide sufficient power, data storage, data rate, and telecom to an MTO type orbiter, the rover itself would have a mass of ~550 kg (30% reserve included). Of this ~110 kg (~20% of rover mass) would constitute the science payload (once again, depending on the exact parameters of the instruments selected through AO). Bringing such a rover to the Martian surface would require a launched mass of 2456 kg, which would demand an Atlas V521 or a Delta IV 4040 launcher. Assuming, a MER cruise stage, Viking style EDL system with a live lander, this would give an injected mass at Mars of 2174 kg, and require a 4.57 m aeroshell and two chutes during descent.

The rover assumed in this study shares heritage with MER however, final design characteristics for the 2009 MSL mission will influence this decision. The rover includes a mast for the remote sensing instrument, an IDD for the contact instruments and sample acquisition, a detailed sample handling system and an analytical laboratory suite of instruments. The six rover wheels were increased in size to 35 cm (diameter) to negotiate larger rocks and extensive Go-To requirements (as discussed below). Each wheel includes a brushless actuator, which would draw 16-25 W per wheel, and a total of 100-150W for all wheels during traverse depending on surface characteristic of the site (i.e. slop, rock distribution, surface material etc.).

The result of the costing exercise resulted in a 2013 mission cost of $ 1.55 Billion (in RY dollars) and 2018 mission cost of $ 1.78 Billion (in RY dollars). This includes ~ 200 million for instruments and infrastructure and ~ 500 million for all the rover subsystems. These numbers should be adjusted as the design for MSL becomes more set. Savings for things like built-to-print hardware and heritage in the EDL and avionics systems may result in mission savings.

In order to meet the mobility requirements for AFL, the mass of the rover and the potential investigation site are taken into account. One requirement for AFL is to investigate a site(s) that are most likely to have high astrobiology interest. This requirement can mean traverses of up to 10’s of km depending on landing ellipse constraints such that the rover design for longer traverses in Mars terrains must be taken into consideration. In addition, the AFL payload will be much bigger than MER with a scaled rover and hence the wheel contact area has to grow from the 25 cm wheel diameter on MER to accommodate low surface pressure for minimizing wheel sinkage. There are some basic assumptions we can make based upon Mars geology and the proposed investigation sites, such that the mission requirements (see section 8.0) can be accomplished and \ a reasonable preliminary design can be created from which approximate mission costs can be estimated. It needs to be pointed out here that this preliminary analysis is by no means a complete engineering analysis, but it is designed to show approximate system requirements for planning of total mission costs as well as mobility potential for site selection. Finally, with this analysis a decision on the level of required precision (or pinpoint) landing can be made so that investment in technology development for AFL can be carefully planned.

Figure 6. A schematic diagram of how AFL may look



Technology development to fulfill science and engineering goals is summarized in Table 6.

can be seen from Table 6 significant development of critical enabling technology should begin as soon as possible, especially for 2013 launch.

As with all other JPL Rovers, AFL’s drive train subsystem was assumed to be a 6-wheel design. Each wheel has two motors: one turning the wheel, the other steering the wheel. All motors are brushless and 2, 4 or 6 wheels can be driven at a time depending on the terrain. Each wheel consumes approximately 8 W in stand-by mode and about 18 W when driving, making the drive train subsystem the largest power consumer (when operating) on AFL. Additionally, a maximum slope tolerance 30o is assumed due to both current design configurations and projected technology advancement. We have assumed that the technology for continuous drive and autonomous hazard avoidance will be developed and eventually will undergo flight qualification so it can be utilized on AFL. The wheel diameter to be chosen will be large enough to avoid typical Martian hazards (i.e. surface rocks) so that linear odometer distance can be maximized while being small enough to minimize mass and power (which is related to wheel size).

Table 6. Summary of necessary technology for AFL, in particular highlighting instrument development in critical areas as defined by the AFL team. This is not to exclude established technologies from development but merely highlights other critical technologies that should be further developed.

# 10.0Planetary Protection

The different variants of AFL may end up in any of three Planetary Protection classifications.

Category IVb is applied to missions that investigate extant Martian life forms. This may include AFL-Liquid Water and AFL-Ice (depending on the instruments).

Category IVc is applied to missions that access Mars “special regions”. This would include AFL-Liquid Water, AFL-Ice, and perhaps other AFL versions, depending on landing site.

Category IVa is applied to landed missions other than the above. This could apply to AFL-Sedimentary and AFL-Hydrothermal (depending on landing site).

To achieve maximum flexibility, mission engineering should be planned assuming IVb, and de-scoping, if appropriate, can take place from there. The four variants of AFL will have very different implications for Planetary Protection and therefore must be reviewed on a case by case basis.

It is noted that many developing technologies are available for contamination monitoring, decontamination and space craft cleanliness issues. These technologies should be vigorously pursued. In particular the following;

Low temperature sterilization techniques such as microwave plasma and other plasma ashing techniques,

Radiation sterilization technologies for whole space craft as well as ‘hot-spot’ removal.

Real time non culture based systems for monitoring amount and types of bioburden.

Providing of a suitable mineralogical bio and organic clean sample blank for proofing critical sample handling pathways and

It should be noted that several of the analytical techniques mentioned in the AFL instrument section cannot undergo heat sterilization. Protocols that either ensure that instruments are delivered cleaned to the level of the space craft and integrated to the craft after heat sterilization, for the use of cooling loops to keep critical instruments cool during sterilization (obviously the previous point would apply here) or alternatives to heat sterilization must be put in place for these technologies to fly.

# 11.0Relationship between AFL and MSL

AFL will depend on the following heritage from MSL.

Precision landing using a novel (non airbag) landing system

The use of RTG technology

The use of remote, contact and analytical suites of instruments

Crude sample processing to be used but improved on AFL

2.AFL will differ from MSL in the following essential respects:

Advanced sample preparation system.

Precision sub-sampling is an advanced sample management step that will allow a scientific focus on meso- to micro-scale discoveries of enhanced astrobiological interest. This will allow a much higher capacity to investigate specific anomalous features.

Liquid extraction. For advanced studies of carbon chemistry, more efficient sample extraction (and instrument delivery) methods are needed.

Better and miniaturized organic molecule and life-detection related instruments.

Greater interplay between

Precision landing, hazard tolerance/avoidance, go-to mobility.

–Will give us the ability to follow-up on specific discoveries, including in “interesting” terrain.

# 12.0The Future of AFL

It is suggested that the SSG reconvene at a later date to

Respond to discovery to hone mission concepts for site selection

Review sample handling and instrumentation choices and feed-forward to a possible sample return mission

Respond to shifting of the AFL timeline from 2013 to 2018, this would include revisiting the instrument choices based on comments from the SSG as to the use of instruments currently in development but of such a low TRL that it could not feature in the 2013 timeframe example include high vacuum and high voltage instrumentation such as electron microscopy, or photoelectron spectroscopy.

In the past, there was competition between in-situ and sample return mission concepts and there was a question as to whether the AFL was to fly before MSR or after. The current schedule envisions an AFL flight as early as 2016 and an MSR some time after 2020.

The advantages of flying in-situ missions first are that they are relatively low cost compared to MSR (although the costly infrastructure put in place for an initial MSR would not be needed for follow up missions) and there are no issues of sample degradation, sample amount, sterilization, quarantine or ‘off nominal’ delivery to earth.

In addition, the strength of in-situ missions is their ability to assess multiple samples over a spatially diverse area without degradation of the samples. AFL will aid in the identification of sample types for future return missions. This may even include aiding sample caching for a future MSR mission, although that would necessitate a further assessment of precision landing of an MSR mission.

A point to remember is that if / once detected life on Mars should be characterized in its entirety for similarity to earth life, evolution and biochemistry (if viable). Therefore both AFL and MSR must be considered necessary tools to be used at the right time to answer science questions within the foreseeable realms of technology..

Several aspects of both the sample handling capabilities for AFL and the choice of instrumentation will allow the further development of robotic tools to explore elsewhere in the solar system e.g. Europa. This instrumentation although initially geared for the detection of life would upon the successful accomplishment of this task be needed to be further developed to characterize that life in whatever form. It will not be enough to ask was/is there life there, the next logical step is how did it arise, how is it different from earth life and why? It is only by taking this step will we able to understand truly the processes of abiotic / prebiotic / biotic chemistry in the solar system.

Note, the bulk of this work and the draft white paper was completed by September 2004. There have been unavoidable delays to its publication. In the meantime thinking about AFL has progressed. This document reflects the thinking in September 2004. Whilst engineering and programmatic changes have occurred since then, the strength of this document lies in the science definition for the mission.

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# 14.0Appendix 1. Discoveries AFL must respond to.

Table 7 Summarizes crucial science discoveries that may also directly affect AFL mission, potential follow up questions and measurements

Generated

# 15.0Appendix 2 - Instrument descriptions and capabilities

In this table, a number of techniques were suggested by AFL SSG members as potentially applicable to one or more identified measurement objectives. This list is not meant to be comprehensive or definitive, but rather to illustrate the kinds of information that would enable instrument development efforts in general to connect to the specific needs of AFL. As such the table does not identify all aspects of each technique, but only those that were discussed in a preliminary analysis of the desired measurements on AFL. The first and second columns identify the technique and the type of measurement(s) with which it is typically associated (Data/Signatures Sought). The third column explicitly lists the most likely AFL measurement requirement that the technique addresses (see Section 7.0). In this way, techniques applicable to a given measurement of interest, or more generally to a mission objective (see Figure 5), can be found by examining those rows containing the category (1-5) desired. This column is meant to serve as an example template, so all potential uses of each technique are not identified. The next three columns indicate the most likely associated tier(s) for the technique, corresponding to the recommended division as discussed above.

The following thirteen columns provide data for *example* implementations of the technique where useful specifications of the sample analyzed and typical instrument parameters could be identified. Given sample data include: 1. the physical form *as acquired or as extracted/analyzed* – solid (s), liquid (l), or gas (g); 2. the type of material from which it is obtained and/or delivered to the instrument; 3. the type of sample preparation required and/or desired (see key); and 4. the typical size or mass of sample, additionally indicating where a technique looks only at the surface of a solid sample rather than the bulk. The first three columns of the Example Technique Characteristics section provide some of the key distances involved: the standoff, the field-of-view (FOV) or spot size, and the scale of the heterogeneity probed, if appropriate. The heterogeneity is indicated by the structures (e.g., layers or grains) that can be individually analyzed with the method’s FOV or spot size. For example, a Hand Lens instrument might look at individual mineral grains and similar size structures within a mm-cm FOV from a standoff focal length of a cm or so. In this example it is the imaging resolution, not the FOV, that determines the smallest structures observable, and that additional data is found in the resolution column. On the other hand, for a laser mass spectrometer, the spot size does roughly determine the spatial resolution of analysis – a spot size below 100 microns could enable analyses of mineral phases on the mm scale; what is then found in the resolution column is in fact the mass resolution, since that is how the term is used for that method. Further, the Mass Range column gives the typical range of molecular weights that are accessible with a given mass spectrometric method.

Finally, the remaining columns provide a correlation of where a technique would be applied in support of various *discovery-responsive measurements* by AFL that would be called for following the discoveries listed in Appendix 2. This separate correlation, beyond the technique-to-measurement requirement-to-mission objective logical chain, permits a greater flexibility and responsiveness of the AFL concept to specific scenarios that may develop from current Mars missions and over the next several years.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Table 8- Techniques Suggested for AFL by SSG Members** | | | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Measurement Tier | | | Example Target/Sample Information | | |  | Example Technique Characteristics (instrument implementation) where appropriate | | | | | | | |  | Discovery/Follow-up per Table 7 | | | |  |  |  |
| Technique | Data/ Signatures Sought | Mmnt Reqts Addessed (Section 7) | Remote Sensing/Standoff | Contact or Close Range | Analytical Lab | Physical Form (Solid, Gas, Liquid) | Example Origin/Host Material | Processing Required/ (Desired) | Sample Mass/ Volume | Distance to Target | Size of Area Probed/ FOV | Target Feature Scale | Selectivity | Detection Limits | Resolution | Precision | Mass Range | Other | Recent Surface Water | Hydrous Mineral Phases | Organic Molecules | Sedimen. Structures | Sedimen. Rocks | Evidence for Fossil Life | Microbes |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| stereo optical imaging | identify targets, evidence of weathering, sedimentation, alteration, etc. | A | x |  |  |  | sedimentary rocks/ structures | n |  | 1m - 10+km | 10cm - 1+km |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 6 |  | 1,2,3,4 | 4 | 1,2,3,6,8 | 3 |
|  | identify surface samples | A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 10-100 m | 1-10 m | 10cm-1m |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | identify distant sedimentary outcrops | A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 km | 10-100 m | 1-10 cm |  |  | 10 cm @ 1 km | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| VIS/NIR Spectroscopy | surface mineralogy, texture | B | x | x |  | s | rocks, fines | n (abr) |  | cm - m |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| mini TES | mineralogy | B | x |  |  | s |  | n (abr) |  | m - km |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |
| long focal length imaging | identify distant sedimentary outcrops | A | x |  |  |  |  | n |  | 10m - km | cm-10m | cm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| laser ranging | distance to target | A | x |  |  |  | boulders, vertical faces | n |  | 100m - km | cm spot |  |  |  | cm @ 100 m | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| LIBS | elemental composition | B | x |  |  | s | boulders, slopes | n |  | 1 - 25m | mm - cm spot |  | low (l absorb.) | ppmw |  | ~ 10% | elements | laser ablation | | 2,4 |  |  | 2,5 | 3 |  |
| ground penetrating radar | ice, H2O, other | B, C | x |  |  | s | subsurface | n |  | m - 10s m |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| seismic sounding | ice, H2O, other | B, C | x | x |  | s | subsurface | n |  | 100's m - km |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| neutron spectroscopy | ice, hydrated minerals | B | x | x |  |  | drill cores, fines | n (acq) |  | 10's cm - m's |  |  | high | variable <%-% | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| gamma ray spectroscopy | elemental composition | B | x | x |  |  | any | n |  | 10's cm - m's |  |  | med | variable <%-% | |  |  |  | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| x-ray spectroscopy | elemental composition | B, E2 |  | x |  |  | any | n (acq) |  | cm | cm+ |  | med | variable <%-% | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Raman spectroscopy | mineralogy, some geochemical/organic | B, E | x | x |  |  | rocks | n (abr) |  | cm - m | cm+ |  | med |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,5 | 1,4 |  | 2 | 1 |  |
| micro-Raman spectroscopy | mineralogy, some geochemical/organic | B,D,E |  | x | x |  | rock chips | n (acq, abr) | | mm - cm | < mm |  | med |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,5 | 1,4 |  | 2 | 1 |  |
| micro-LIBS | elemental composition | B,D |  | x | x | s | rocks, chips | acq,pos |  | mm - cm | < mm |  | low (l absorb.) | |  |  |  |  |  | 2,4 |  |  | 2,5 | 3 |  |
| hand-lens-scale imaging | phase texture/identity | D |  | x |  | s |  | n (abr) |  | cm - m's | 0.1-10 mm | grains |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| optical microscopy | fine morphology | D,E |  | x | x | s |  | n (abr) |  | mm - cm | 0.001-1 mm | subgrain |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  | 1,2,3,6,8 |  |
| confocal microscopy |  | D,E |  |  | x | s |  |  |  | mm | 0.001-1 mm | subgrain |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  | 1,2,3,6,8 |  |
| near-field microscopy | very high res imaging | D,E |  |  | x | s | flat chip | acq, pos |  |  |  | subgrain |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mossbauer | Fe-bearing mineralogy | B |  | x | x | s |  |  |  | mm - cm |  | avg |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fe-NMR |  | B |  | x |  | s |  |  |  | mm - cm |  |  | high |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| XRD/XRF | mineralogy | B,D |  |  | x | s | drill cores, fines | acq, pow | mg's | 0 | whole sample | avg or grains | |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1,5 |  |  |
| FTIR | mineralogy, some geochemical/organic | B |  |  | x | s |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,5 | 1,4,6 |  | 2,5 | 3 | 4 |
| VCD |  |  |  |  | x | s |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| deep UV fluorescence | organics: identity, oxidation state, … | B,D,E |  | x | x | s |  | n (abr) | surface? | mm - m |  | grain scale+ | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 3 |  |
| pyrolysis/GCMS | organic and some mineralogical/inorganic composition; isotopes | B,E |  |  | x | s,g,l |  | acq, pos, vac | mg-10's mg | 0 | whole sample | avg | low |  |  |  |  |  | 4 |  | 1,5 |  | 5 |  |  |
| chemical derivatization | less-tractable organics | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | liq |  | 0 | whole sample | avg |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 |  | 1,4,7 |  | 5 |  |  |
| isotope ratio MS (IRMS) | C and other isotopes for bio-fractionation, age dating | E2 |  |  | x | s,l |  | acq, pos, vac | | 0 | whole sample | avg |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | compound-specific IRMS using sampling selectivity | E2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | whole sample | avg | cmpd isolated w/pyr, GC,or other proc. | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| chiral GC | enantiomeric excess (ee) | E3 |  |  | x | s,g,l |  | acq, pos, gas | | 0 | whole sample | avg |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| circular dichroism | enantiomeric excess (ee) | E3 |  |  | x |  |  |  |  | 0 |  | avg |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| liquid chromatography (LC) | organics, ee | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | liq |  | 0 | whole sample | avg |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 |  | 1,3,5 |  | 5 |  |  |
| 2D GCMS/TOF-MS | organic and some mineralogical/inorganic composition; isotopes | B,E |  |  | x | s,g,l | rocks/cores, fines | acq, pos, vac | 10's mg | 0 | whole sample | avg | low |  |  |  | ~1E3-1E5+ | | 4 |  | 1,5 |  | 5 |  |  |
| electrospray ionization MS (ESI/IMS/CIT-MS) | | E |  |  | x | s,g,l |  | acq, pos, vac | g's | 0 | whole sample | avg | low |  | Dm/m 1E2-1E3+ | |  | contact w/ fluidized sample | | |  |  |  |  |  |
| laser ablation TOF-MS | local elemental/isotopic composition | B,D |  |  | x | s | rock chips, fines | acq, pos, vac | surface | 0 | 10mm - 1 mm | grain scale+ | low (l absorb.) | ppbw-ppmw | Dm/m 1E2-1E3 | 5-25% | ~ 300 |  | 4 | 2,4 |  |  | 2,5 | 1,3 |  |
| LD/MALDI-TOF MS | high-MW organics; some inorganic molecules | D,E |  |  | x | s | rock chips, fines | acq, pos, vac (pow, liq) | surface/prep film | 0 | 100mm - 1 mm | grain scale+ | med (l absorb.) | fmol-pmol | Dm/m 1E3-1E4 | | ~1E3-1E5+ | |  |  | 1,2,4,7 |  |  | 3 | 4 |
| REMPI-MS/RIMS | organics, elements (trace) | E |  |  | x | s |  | acq, pos, vac | | 0 | 10mm - 1 mm |  | very high (l absorb.) | s. atom - pmol | Dm/m 1E2-1E4 | | ~ 1E3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AP-MALDI-MS (TOFMS or ITMS) | organic, inorganic molec. | D,E |  | x | x | s | rocks, ices | vac | surface | mm | 10mm - 1 mm | grain scale+ | med (l absorb.) | fmol-nmol | Dm/m 1E3-1E4+ | | ~ 1E3-1E5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| electrospray TOF-MS | high-MW organics | E |  |  | x | s,l | rocks/cores, fines | acq, liq, pos, vac | | 0 | whole sample | avg | med |  | Dm/m 1E2-1E4 | | ~1E4-1E5+ | |  |  | 1,2,7 |  |  | 3 | 4 |
| TOF-SIMS | chemical imaging | B,E |  |  | x | s | rock chips | acq, pos, vac | surface | 0 | 50nm-50mm | sub-grain+ | low |  | Dm/m 1E3-1E4 | | ~1E3-1E4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ICP-MS | trace elements | B |  |  | x | s,g,l | rock chips, fines | acq, pos, vac, gas | | 0 | whole sample | avg or grains | low | pptw-ppbw | Dm/m 1E3+ | 0.1-10% | ~ 300 |  | 2,4 |  | 1,3,5 |  | 5 |  |  |
| TIMS | isotope ratios (~IRMS) | B,E2 |  |  | x | s |  | acq, pos, vac | | 0 | whole sample | avg | low | pptw-ppbw | Dm/m 1E3+ | 0.1-1% | ~ 300 |  | 2 |  | 5 |  |  |  |  |
| AFM | nanoscale imaging | D, E3 |  |  | x | s | flat chip | acq, pos | chips |  | 1nm-1mm | sub-micron | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TEM/SEM | nanoscale imaging | D |  |  | x | s | flat chip | acq, pos, vac | chips |  | 1nm-1mm | sub-micron | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | image microbes in ice cores | D,E3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| XPS | chemical comp. and bond state | B,C |  |  | x | s,l |  | vac | 100's mg |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Auger spectroscopy | bond state of elements | B,C |  |  |  | s,l |  | vac | 100's mg |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| amino-acid sensors (eg MOD) | detection of amino acids | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | acq | 100's mg |  | whole sample |  | high |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,3 |  |  |  |  |
| oxidant sensors | detection of oxidants | C |  |  | x | s,l |  | Acq, dry | 100's mg |  | whole sample |  | high |  | per sample weight | |  |  |  |  | 6 |  |  |  |  |
| bio-assay chip lab |  | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | liq | 100's mg | 0 | whole sample |  | high | pptw | per sample weight | | Kda |  |  |  | 7 |  |  | 1,5,6 | 1,5,6 |
| micro-array sensors |  | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | Liq | 100's mg |  | whole sample |  | high | pptw | per sample weight | | Kda |  |  |  | 7 |  |  | 1,5,6 | 1,5,6 |
| MORD |  |  |  |  | x | s |  |  | 100's mg | 0 | whole sample |  | high |  | per sample weight | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| fluorescence staining | organics | E |  | x | x | s,l |  | Liq | 100's mg |  | whole sample | avg | high | single cell | per sample weight | |  |  |  |  | 7 |  |  |  |  |
|  | SYBR gold, SYTO, DAPI nucleic acid stains for counting microbes | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | Liq | 100's mg |  | whole sample |  | Medium | single cell | per sample weight | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1.5.6 |
|  | CTC, tetrazolium salt redox stains for individual cells | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | Liq | 100's mg |  | whole sample |  | Medium | Single cell | per sample weight | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,5,6 |
| isotopic labelling | 14CO2 or 3H for total population activity | E |  |  | x | s,g,l |  | Lig | 100's mg |  | whole sample | avg | medium | single cell | per sample weight | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,5,6 |
| flow-cytometry |  | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | liq | 100's mg |  | whole sample | avg | medium | single cell | per sample weight | |  | If have required media | | |  |  |  |  | 1,5,6 |
| culturing/cell-growth assays |  | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | liq | 100's mg |  | whole sample | avg | high | single cell | per sample weight | |  | If have required media | | |  |  |  |  | 1,5,6 |
| ATP and LAL enzyme assays |  | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | liq | 100's mg |  | whole sample | avg | high | pptw | per sample weight | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,5,6 |
| DNA extraction/PCR |  | E |  |  | x | s,l |  | liq | 100's mg |  | whole sample | avg | high | 100 cells | per sample weight | |  | with correct primers | | |  |  |  |  | 5,6 |
| capillary electrophoresis (CE) |  | E |  |  | x | s,l |  |  | 100's mg |  | whole sample | avg | high | pptw | per sample weight | |  |  |  |  | 7 |  |  |  | 1,5,6 |
| microcalorimetry |  |  |  |  | x |  |  |  | 100's mg |  | whole sample | avg | medium | pptw | per sample weight | |  |  |  |  | 7 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **KEY:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| n - can be operated with no sample acquisition/processing | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| abr - abrasion to remove surface layers | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| acq - sample acquisition from host matl (via whatever means) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| pow - powdering of solid sample | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| pos - sample positioning (e.g., manipulation to oven, point of focus or extraction) | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| vac - vacuum processing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| liq - liquid processing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| gas - gas processing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |