

From the APOLLO legacy to Mars, what can the manned exploration programme bring to planetary science?

C. Muller

Belgian Users Support and Operations Centre (B.USOC), Brussels, Belgium,
Christian.Muller@busoc.be

Manned space began with the promise of setting foot on the Moon in the first decade of the space age; this was done by the APOLLO project which combined unprecedented technological innovation with space and moon science. The scientific results of APPOLO will be briefly reviewed together with the lessons to be learnt from this unique experience. In the last 34 years, manned space was limited to low earth orbit and it can be reasonably argued that the science return from continuing will be to the maximum incremental, however, the full use of the present space station could still be considered for external instrument platforms as, for example, a planetary telescope. Independently of the science objectives, the Presidential Vision in the United States and the Lisbon declaration of the European Union have led to new manned exploration programmes returning to the Moon, going to Mars and beyond.

The current status of these ambitious projects and their return for planetary science will be reviewed.