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Revised target co-ordinates for the Beagle 2 lander

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REVISED TARGET CO-ORDINATES FOR THE BEAGLE 2 LANDER. J. C. Bridges¹, A. M. Seabrook^{2,3}, D. A. Rothery³, C. T. Pillinger², M. R. Sims⁴, I. P. Wright², ¹Dept. of Mineralogy, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, UK, (j.bridges@nhm.ac.uk), ²PSSRI, Open University, Milton Keynes, UK, ³ Department of Earth Sciences, Open University, Milton Keynes, UK, ⁴Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK.

The Beagle 2 Mars Lander will be launched as part of the Mars Express mission from May 23^{rd} 2003. It will land in Isidis Planitia on Dec. 26th 2003 and is planned to operate for 180 sols (L_s 322° to 53°). The landing site's geology, topography, slopes, wind speeds, thermal inertia and rock abundances are described in [1] together with the target co-ordinates. Since publication of [1] the calculated landing ellipse dimensions have been revised and the target location is now available in IAU 2000 co-ordinates. Details of the Lander's instrument package, scientific objectives and reasons for site selection can be seen at [1], [2].

The revised aerocentric IAU 2000 target coordinates are 11.6°N, 90.75°E. The 3-sigma ellipse is 114 x 46 km with a 75° azimuth for a flight path angle of 16.5°.

Reference:[1] Bridges J. C. et al. (2003) *JGR*, *108*, 10.1029/2001JE001820. [2] www.beagle2.com