



EURO-CARES WP3 Meeting

Designing a European Extraterrestrial Sample Curation Facility

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Instrumentation Requirements for Sample Curation Facility

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An essential component of any sample curation facility is the instrumentation required to characterise and understand the nature of the samples. This task is necessary to perform bio-hazard assessment and meet Planetary Protection criteria in the case of samples from Mars (or other restricted Category V samples). It is also necessary for both restricted and un-restricted Category V samples in order to ensure the optimum preservation of the samples in the curation facility and allocation of material to researchers.

As part of the EURO-CARES study it is clear that a wide range of instrumentation is being proposed or considered as a necessary element of the curation facility. This instrumentation has major implications for the requirements and design of the bio-containment environments that the facility will house and indeed on the overall curation facility itself, in terms of services, laboratory/cleanroom floor area, as well as staffing levels and their associated accommodation requirements. All of which adds significant complexity to the curation facility and major capital and running costs.

This presentation will attempt to summarise the instrumentation identified to date within the EURO-CARES project, and attempt to rationalize into where this equipment should or can be sited within the facility, and identify where rationalization can be achieved.