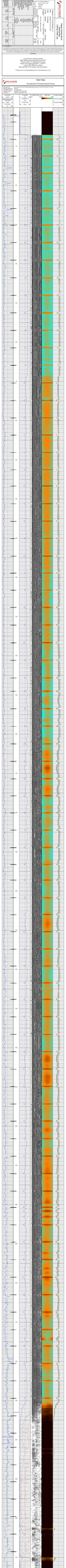
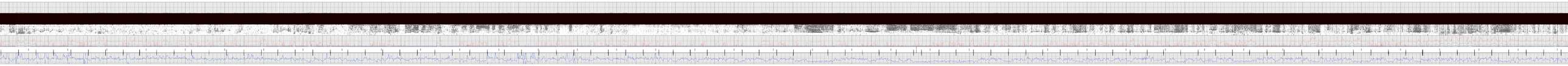
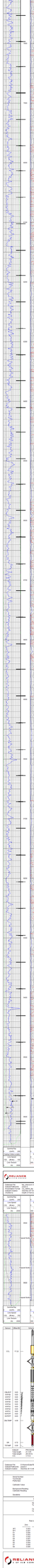


Mars Polar Science Exploration Orbiter (MPSEO)

Ground-based GPR Subsurface Ice Detection Campaign

Mission Phase: Pre-launch ground validation
Survey Area: Utopia Planitia, Mars (analog site: Arctic permafrost, Alaska)
Survey Dates: 2026-03-14 to 2026-03-21
Instrument: MPSEO-GPR-1 (Ground Penetrating Radar)
Operating Frequency: 20 MHz (primary), 5 MHz (deep sounding)
Transmit Power: 10 kW peak
Antenna Configuration: Dipole, 15 m tip-to-tip
Survey Platform: Tracked rover, 1.5 m/s nominal speed
Total Profile Length: 12.7 km
Data Volume: 4.2 TB raw, 1.8 TB processed
Principal Investigator: Dr. Elena Vasquez, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Co-Investigators: Dr. Marcus Holt, Dr. Priya Nandakumar, Dr. Tomasz Wierzbicki
Processing Facility: JPL Radar Science Group, Building 264

Mars Polar Science Exploration Orbiter (MPSEO) — Ground-based GPR Subsurface Ice Detection Campaign

Mission Phase: Pre-launch ground validation
Survey Area: Utopia Planitia, Mars (analog site: Arctic permafrost, Alaska)
Survey Dates: 2026-03-14 to 2026-03-21
Instrument: MPSEO-GPR-1 (Ground Penetrating Radar)
Operating Frequency: 20 MHz (primary), 5 MHz (deep sounding)
Transmit Power: 10 kW peak
Antenna Configuration: Dipole, 15 m tip-to-tip
Survey Platform: Tracked rover, 1.5 m/s nominal speed
Total Profile Length: 12.7 km
Data Volume: 4.2 TB raw, 1.8 TB processed
Principal Investigator: Dr. Elena Vasquez, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Co-Investigators: Dr. Marcus Holt, Dr. Priya Nandakumar, Dr. Tomasz Wierzbicki
Processing Facility: JPL Radar Science Group, Building 264