

IMEWG recognises that Radioisotope Power Systems (RPS) have made significant contributions to space exploration in the past, are essential for maximising the potential of future Mars exploration missions and will enhance the science return from these missions. Currently, only a few spacefaring nations have the capability to utilize RPS in exploration missions. Increasing the number of international providers of Radioisotope Heater Units (RHU) and Radioisotope Power Systems will bring substantial benefits to future exploration endeavours. IMEWG also recognizes a strategic benefit of having a range of fuel types to reduce dependence on one or two sources. Therefore, IMEWG recommends that its members seek to develop such capabilities in the near-term. Toward that goal, IMEWG will work to reduce barriers – technological, regulatory, and political – and to share the RPS capabilities most relevant to Martian exploration.

As part of this recommendation, IMEWG will seek coordination among its members to provide timely and accurate public information, respect individual national policies and practices, and support to the greatest extent possible international principles and agreements related to the use of nuclear power and the peaceful exploration of space.

Position Statement on Radioisotope Power Systems

Signed on behalf of the IMEWG membership by



Sanjay Vijendran
IMEWG Chair

11/22/2022
Date



Richard M. Davis
IMEWG Secretariat

11/22/2022
Date