

## **Mars History as Derived from the OMEGA / Mars Express Observations**

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The VIS/NIR hyperspectral imagery of Mars, as performed since 2004 by the OMEGA investigation on board the Mars Express ESA mission, provides unprecedented information on the composition of the Mars surface and atmosphere. It enables to retrieve the evolution of Mars at all timescales, from diurnal, seasonal, to climatic and geological. In particular, it sheds a new light on the water cycle over the ages, with a special emphasis on the ancient aqueous periods: Mars may have hosted habitable environment, the record of which is preserved in hundreds of small outcrops readily identifiable by their mineralogical content.

The data of relevance will be presented, and discussed in a broader frame of comparative planetary evolution.