

## **Impact a fundamental geological process.**

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Impact craters of all sizes ranging from basins with dimensions of hundreds of kilometres on surfaces to nanoscale craters on minerals characterize planetary surfaces. Impact processes basically alter the chemical and physical state of planetary surface materials, and redistribute surface materials over large areas causing erosion, transportation and re-sedimentation of materials. Impacts also probe the subsurface and thus provide insight into planetary interiors. Finally the crater frequency distribution of impacts is used to date geological units in the solar system and thus allows the understanding of the planetary evolution in space and time.

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Abs. No. **598**  
Meeting: **DMG 2008**  
submitted by: **Jaumann, Ralf**  
email: **ralf.jaumann@dlr.de**  
date: **0000-00-00**  
Req. presentation: **Vortrag**  
Req. session: **S03**