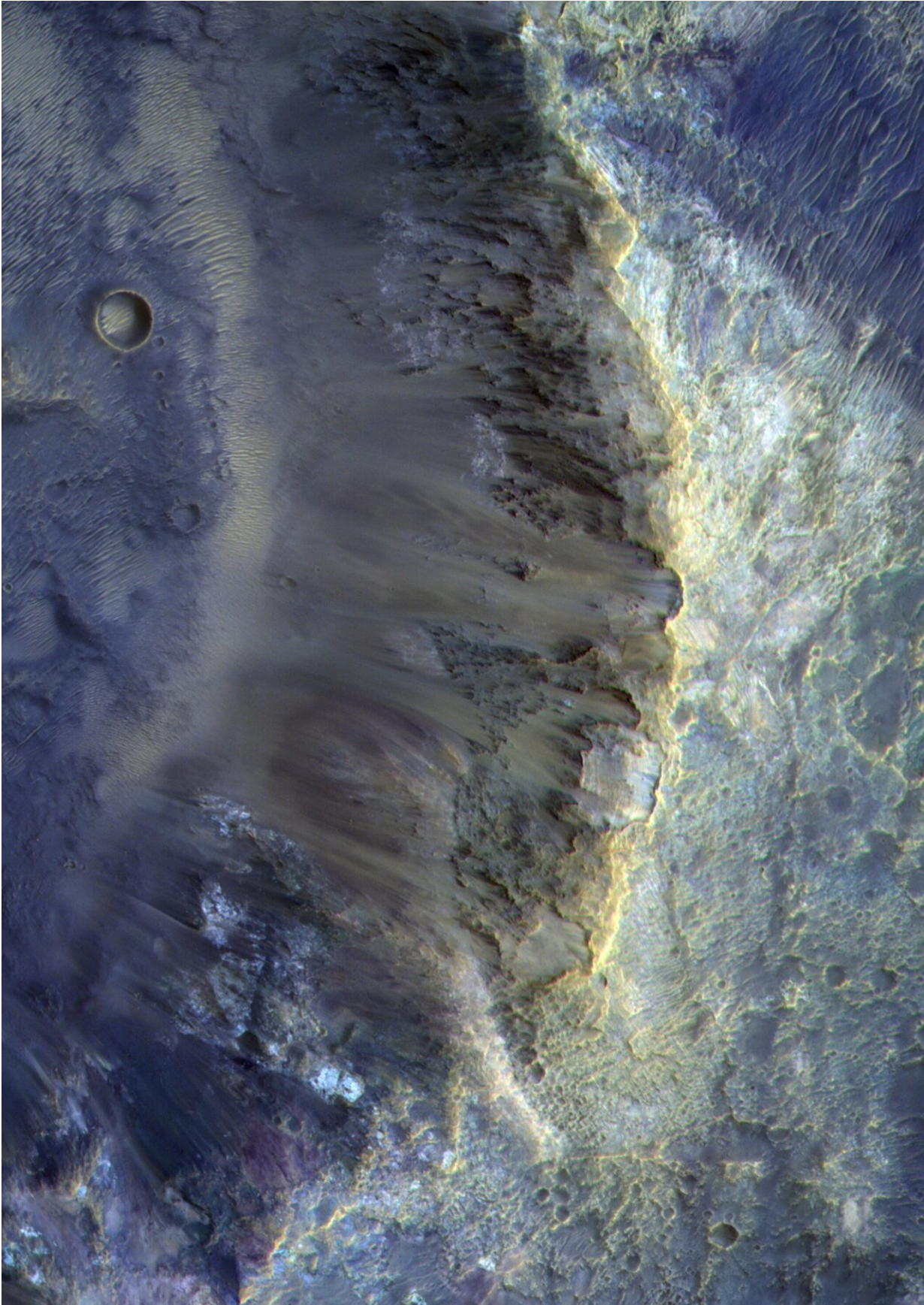


Image: At the rim of a crater

February 15 2021



Credit: ESA/Roscosmos/CaSSIS, [CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO](#)

This image features the southeast wall of a small crater located a few hundred kilometers to the north of the giant Hellas impact basin on Mars. The complete crater itself is about 12 km in diameter; this image shows a 5 x 10 km area.

The Color and Stereo Surface Imaging System (CaSSIS) onboard the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter took the image on 19 October 2020.

When viewed with CaSSIS' color filters, the image shows exceptional diversity in color. This diversity is related to the presence of various minerals that reflect light differently at different wavelengths. The light-toned deposits highlight the bedrock exposures of the area, which probably contain ancient clay-rich minerals that would have formed in the presence of water. Also visible are wind-blown sandy deposits that form ripples on the floor of the crater. Their distinctive tan color implies that they contain iron-oxide minerals.

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: Image: At the rim of a crater (2021, February 15) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-02-image-rim-crater.html>

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