

For Immediate Release

Media Inquiries Contact:
Samantha Padreddii, 516-836-3459
spadreddii@empower-solar.com

From Submarines and Solar Panels to NASA Space Simulation

Gregory Sachs Among Those Recruited by NASA to Test Human Capabilities on 'Mars Like' Space Mission'

NEW YORK - Jan. 17, 2018 – A Brooklyn-based engineer-entrepreneur is heading to Johnson Space Center in Houston to spend 45 days in a simulated trip to space so NASA can learn how to best prepare for future space exploration on Mars. Gregory Sachs, alumni of MIT, the Navy Nuclear Power School, and graduate turned professor at the Merchant Marine Academy, has studied science his entire life, but now science will be studying him.

Sachs was selected as an "astronaut-like" individual, to participate in a NASA Analog Mission known as the Human Exploration Research Analog program, or HERA. The program will be recording how the crew of four reacts to conditions of isolation, confinement, and remote conditions. Researchers will be evaluating behavioral health, performance, communication and anatomy, human factors, and medical capabilities.

[The HERA program](#) has been conducting missions since 2014 when it started as a 7-day long program. Sach's mission XVI, as part of the 4th campaign, will be 45 days in length beginning on February 3 through March 19, 2018. Each of the 4 subjects will participate in a schedule of 19 hours awake, and 5 hours for sleep 5 days per week. They will have a 5.5-day work load, with varying difficulty throughout the mission, simulating the conditions in a real space mission.

The HERA is a two-story, four-port habitat unit residing in Building 220 at NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC). The total space comprises 148.6 m³ or 636 sq.ft.

"A major driving force throughout my life has been to increase the "net well being" of humanity through the application of my strengths and talents," says Sachs. "I am humbled and honored to have been selected amongst a sea of qualified candidates to contribute so directly to this great mission of our time - the race to safely send humans to Mars and back, while learning about our universe. This mission has inspired me, along with millions of others, to dream fearlessly and support the advancement of science and technology."

After he graduated from the U.S Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) ranked 2nd in his major, Sachs began his career by immediately serving four years in the Navy, operating nuclear submarines. After a valuable and rigorous experience working with nuclear energy, he desired

to break into renewables and founded the Alternative Power Program at the USMMA and earned a tenured teaching position as Academy senior staff. Sachs then went on to earn his Master of Science in Engineering and Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

“We are extremely proud of all that Greg Sachs, an outstanding member of the Class of 1999, has accomplished after he graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy,” says Capt. James F. Tobin, President of USMMA Alumni Association & Foundation, Inc. “His service to the nation in the Navy, as a professor at the Academy, and his continued passion for science makes him an example for the midshipmen and graduates. We wish Greg and NASA good luck in this effort and we thank Greg for continuing to live the Academy’s motto, Acta Non Verba.”

While teaching at the MMA, Sachs competed in the Department of Energy’s “Solar Decathlon Competition,” where he met his now business partner while building “America’s First Solar-Hydrogen Home.” Stemming from this experience, Sachs is now a PE, Chief Operations Officer, and co-owner of SunPower by EmPower Solar; which he helped grow from a 3-person to a 70-person solar installation company in Island Park, NY.

While this would be considered a trip of a lifetime for any individual, it is especially pivotal for Sachs, as this will be his last mission before he becomes a father. Sachs and his fiancée are expecting twins in April, 2018.

###

About SunPower by EmPower Solar

SunPower by EmPower delivers superior solar and battery technology, maximum savings and exceptional customer service.

Since 2003, SunPower by EmPower Solar has been the preferred solar provider of over 1,800 New Yorkers earning an industry leading customer satisfaction rating. In 2016, EmPower was chosen as the exclusive SunPower Master Dealer of New York. In joining forces with SunPower Corporation, one of the world’s most innovative and sustainable energy companies, EmPower leverages 30 years of industry experience and record-setting technology.