**PDS Policy on Use of Checksums**

PDS Nodes will use MD5 checksums to ensure that all information (data and metadata) remain intact and unaltered while stored or being transferred. PDS nodes will maintain manifest files (in a PDS-specified common format\*) that contain checksums for all files within their respective archive holdings. MD5 checksums will be provided for all transfers to, within, or from the PDS.

\*

The common format will be specified by the Engineering Node; the initial choice is the output format of md5deep.

2008-08-29: Approved 9-0-0 by Planetary Data System Management Council on e-mail vote