

# VEXAG

VENUS EXPLORATION ANALYSIS GROUP

The Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) was established by NASA in July 2005 to identify scientific priorities and strategy for exploration of Venus. VEXAG is currently composed of two co-chairs and two focus groups. The focus groups will actively solicit input from the scientific community. VEXAG will report its findings and provide input to NASA, but will not make recommendations.

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/vexag.html>

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November 4, 2005

Message from Andy Dantzler Director, Solar System Division, NASA Headquarters

I recognize the importance understanding Venus as a world so similar and so dissimilar to Earth, as a laboratory for understanding the evolution of habitable zones, and as a data point in our ever growing appreciation for the vast diversity of worlds throughout our solar system and other star systems. While NASA does not have immediate plans for a specific mission to Venus, the Discovery and New Frontiers competitions are open to Venus exploration and I hope to see Venus mission proposals to these opportunities in the future. Meanwhile, I am happy that we have been able to establish the VeXAG and open US participation in the VeX mission. I am looking forward to the successful launch of VeX and the beginning of a new era of Venus exploration.

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## **VEXAG CHARTER**

The Venus Exploration Analysis Group is NASA's community-based forum designed to provide scientific input and technology development plans for planning and prioritizing the exploration of Venus over the next several decades, including a Venus surface sample return. VEXAG is chartered by NASA's Solar System Exploration Division and reports its findings to NASA. Open to all interested scientists, VEXAG regularly evaluates Venus exploration goals, scientific objectives, investigations and critical measurement requirements, including especially recommendations in the NRC Decadal Survey and the Solar System Exploration Strategic Roadmap.

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## VENUS EXPLORATION ANALYSIS GROUP

### Co-Chairs:

Sushil Atreya  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Janet Luhmann  
University of California, Berkeley

### Focus Groups:

1. Planetary Formation and Evolution: Surface and Interior,  
Volcanism, Geodynamics, etc.

Focus Group Lead: Steve Mackwell, LPI

2. Atmospheric Evolution: Dynamics/Meteorology, Chemistry,  
Solar Wind Interaction, Escape, etc.

Focus Group Lead: Kevin Baines, JPL

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In addition to interested members of the scientific community, each focus group will include technology experts, NASA representatives, international partner representatives, EPO experts, and the two VEXAG co-chairs. Other focus groups may be added, as needed.

## **NASA and LPI contacts:**

Dr. Steve Saunders and Dr. Adriana Ocampo, NASA Headquarters  
Dr. Thomas W. Thompson, NASA/JPL  
Dr. Steve Mackwell, LPI

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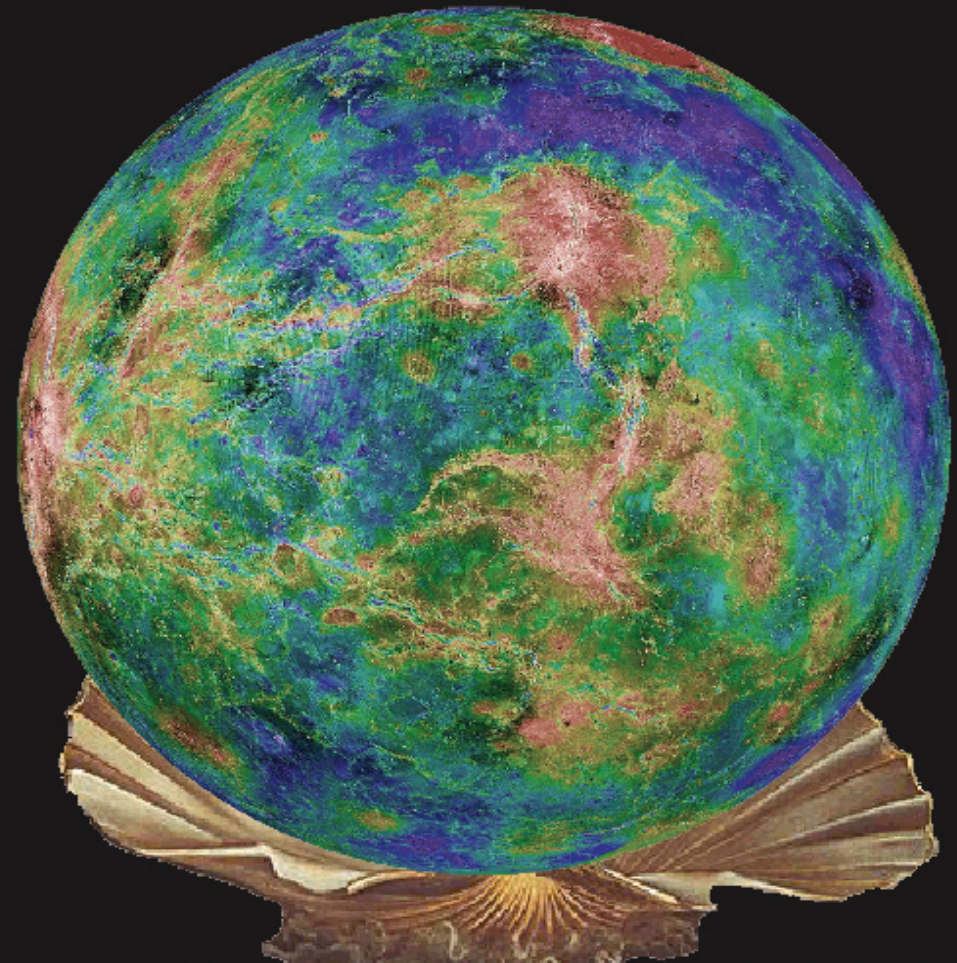
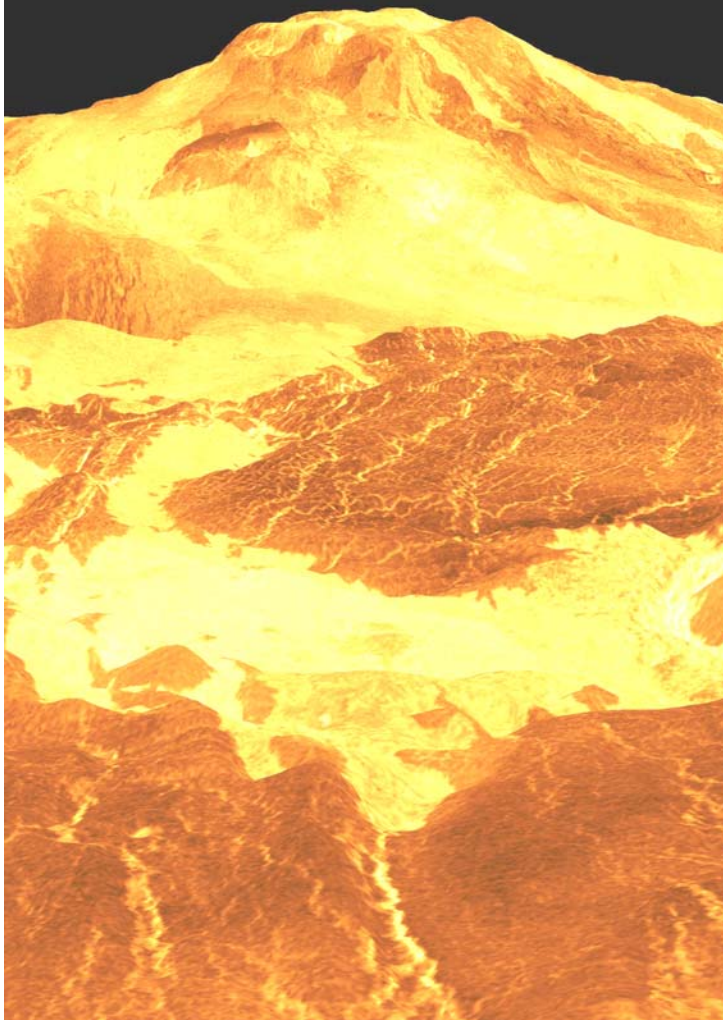
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## US Participating Scientists on ESA's Venus Express Mission

Charles Acton	JPL	SPICE for Venus Express
Sushil Atreya	Univ. Michigan	Coupled dynamics and chemistry
Kevin Baines	JPL	To the depths of Venus with Venus Express
Pontus Brandt	JHU/APL	Aspera-4 investigation
David Crisp	JPL	To the depths of Venus with Venus Express
Sanjay Limaye	Univ. Wisconsin	Exploration of dynamics and chemistry
Janet Luhmann	UC Berkeley	Building on PVO
Chris Russell	UCLA	Venus Express Participating Scientist Program
Alan Stern	SwRI	Venus Express Participating Scientist Program
Len Tyler	Stanford	Radio science

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# **EXPLORING VENUS AS A TERRESTRIAL PLANET**



**13 - 17 FEBRUARY 2006  
KEY LARGO, FLORIDA**