

Venus Express Status - Late-November 2005

The Venus Express spacecraft has had a very successful launch and Early Earth Orbit (LEOP) and has transitioned over to spacecraft commissioning. All spacecraft commissioning activities have been completed with the exception of the main engine calibration, which is scheduled for February 2006. Science experiment commissioning has begun with the turn on of the instruments. The MAG instrument has been turned on and its boom has been deployed. The VMC has taken its first pictures. The spacecraft has been performing flawlessly.

Hakan Svenden on November 23, 2005 reported

We are now well into the instrument commissioning phase and last night the first real targeted observation was done. The Earth -Moon obseravtion by VMC and Virtis. It went all very well and the teams are now working on their data. Hopefully by tomorrow you will be able to have a look at the preliminary results. The MAG boom has been deployed and the instrument works very well. Friday SpicaV will be switched on and after the Pointing Test PFS, ASPERA and VERA will follow.

The spacecraft is in an excellent condition. The project team and the industrial partners have all done a superb job. Also the operations at ESOC and the preparations by VSOC run extremely well.