

Executive Summary

Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) Meeting #6 Wednesday – February 25, 2009 Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston Texas

Some 57 members of the Venus science community met on February 25th at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston Texas for the 6th Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) meeting. The goals of this meeting were to provide Venus community feedback on the Venus STDT Flagship Mission study and to generate a community update of VEXAG Goals, Objectives, and Measurements. Later in the week, a VEXAG sponsored Workshop on Venus Geochemistry: Progress, Prospects, and New Missions was held at the nearby Gilruth Center, NASA Johnson Space Center.

Presentations at the VEXAG meeting included:

- A welcome and well-received report from NASA Headquarters,
- Reports from the current Venus missions (the European Venus Express, and the Japanese Venus Climate Orbiter, VCO),
- A Report on the Nation Research Council's Next Decadal Survey
- A Report on the completion of the Venus STDT activities describing the Venus Reference Mission, Point Design for a Venus Flagship Mission,
- 4 open-mike presentations, primarily on Venus exploration instrumentation.
- An update on current VEXAG activities emphasizing updates to VEXAG Goals, Objectives, and Measurements in preparation for a summer presentation to the Next Decadal Study panels.

The science talks at the Workshop on Venus Geochemistry: Progress, Prospects, and New Missions addressed:

- Present knowledge of Venus' geochemistry: atmosphere, surface, mantle core, and whole planet
- Chemical interactions between Venus' surface and atmosphere
- Laboratory investigations (solids, fluids, gases) to further understanding of Venus' geochemistry
- Recent Venus missions and remote sensing of its surface and interior
- Geochemistry on future missions to Venus: concepts, investigations, and instruments

VEXAG during its business meeting strongly endorsed the Venus Reference Mission, Point Design developed by the Venus STDT. In addition the VEXAG science focus groups for Planetary Formation and Evolution, Venus-Earth Climate Connections, and Atmospheric Evolution, in their breakout sessions addressed the VEXAG Goals, Objectives, and Measurements based on the Venus STDT process of defining the goals for a Venus Flagship Mission.

The next VEXAG meeting is tentatively scheduled for late 2009/early 2010.

Agenda

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8:00 AM - Sign-In / Pick-up Handouts / Coffee and Pastries

8:30 AM - Welcome - Adriana Ocampo

8:35 AM - VEXAG Meeting #6 Overview and Objectives – Ellen Stofan

- Provide feedback on the STDT Flagship Mission Study
- Community update of VEXAG White Paper as input to the Decadal Study

8:45 AM - Status Report on Venus Express - Hakan Svedhem

9:00 AM - JAXA's Venus Climate Orbiter - Masato Nakamura and Takeshi Imamura

9:15 AM – Update on Decadal Survey - David Smith

9:45 AM – Coffee Break

10:00 AM - STDT Report and Discussion – Mark Bullock

11:00 AM - NASA Headquarters Update and Perspective on Venus Exploration
- Jim Green

11:30 AM - Open Mike Presentations (1-2 slides, up to 5 minutes)

12:00 PM – LUNCH

1:00 PM – Charge to focus groups - Ellen Stofan

1:15 PM - Focus Group Preview of Splinter Sessions – Review of White Paper and Venus STDT – Kevin Baines, Lori Glaze for Steve Mackwell, Jim Cutts, David Grinspoon,

4:00 PM - Focus Group Reports

5:00 PM - Wrap-up - Next Meeting - Recommendations - Action Items – Ellen Stofan

5:30 PM – ADJOURN

Attendees

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