

Ceres Captures Dawn in Orbit

- We know almost nothing about Ceres.
- Dawn used its ion thrusters to enter Ceres' orbit and will continue to adjust to lower altitudes over the next year
- When Dawn approached Ceres (right) we were surprised to discover an older cratered surface on part of it, since theoretical calculations led us to assume it would be entirely covered in smooth ice.
- Dawn spotted a pair of intriguing spots on the surface that have yet to be understood. This is the same region that water vapor has been seen from Earth orbiting telescopes (perhaps ice volcanoes?)
- Ceres does have a thick layer of surface ice and perhaps an ocean under its crust that may reveal itself as we get closer.

