

VEXAG Status

Ellen Stofan
PSS Meeting
Oct. 1, 2008

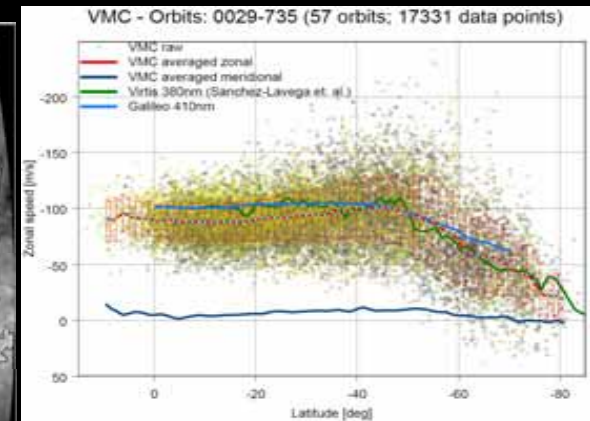
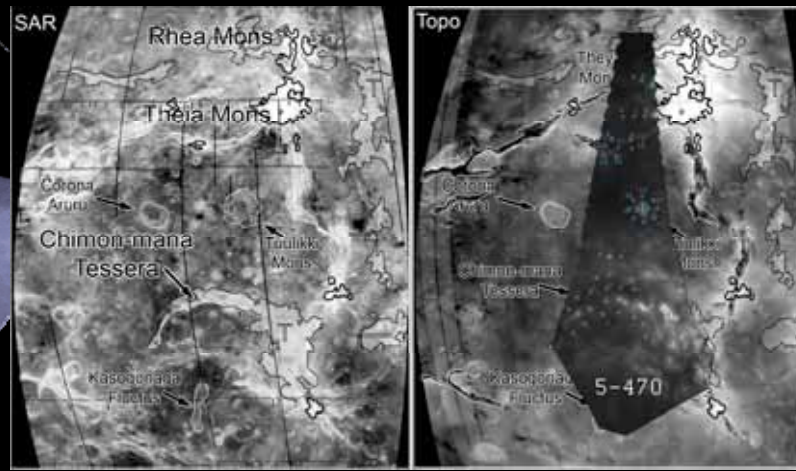
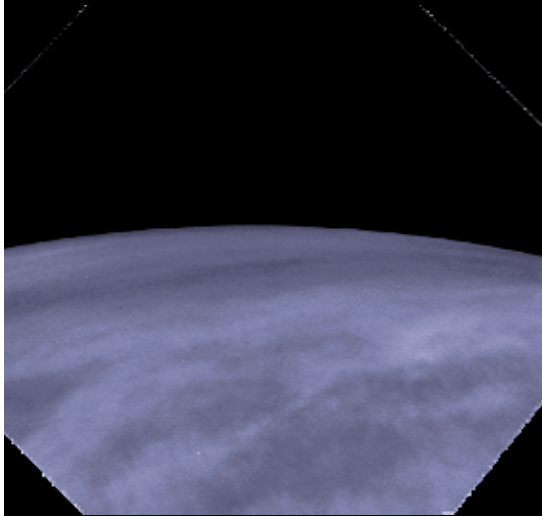


VEXAG Upcoming Events



- Next VEXAG Meeting, LPI, Feb. 25, 2009
- Venus-Earth-Mars Comparative Climatology Union Session, Fall AGU (Dec. '08)
- Venus Flagship STDT study nearing completion
- Venus Geochemistry Workshop, Feb. 23-24, 2009, LPI
- Venus opportunities- NF, Discovery, SALMON
- Venus white paper being updated

Venus Express Update



- First of two JGR-Planets volumes on VeX is going to press shortly. Between the two volumes, more than 30 VeX articles will be published.
- All instruments healthy, periapse lowering to 185 km had ~ no effect
- Mission extension will attempt to go to December 31, 2012- decision in November
- Next SWT: ESTEC, January 12 -14, joint with MeX

Myths about Venus Exploration



- Exploring Venus requires technologies that are too far out in the future

 - *False: Highly capable flagship can be ready by 2015*

- Flagship quality science can only come from Venus surface, and requires mobility

 - *False: Great science can be done from orbit, from landers and from atmospheric balloons*

- The cost and risks of Venus missions are too high

 - *False: A Venus flagship will be cost-and risk competitive with Mars missions and Outer Planets flagships*

- We can understand the big questions about life in the Solar System without going to Venus

 - *False: Understanding how and when Venus lost its oceans is of primary concern in understanding the origin and evolution of life.*