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.*