

Venus Newsletter – June 2, 2021

From the desk of the VEXAG Chair:

Dear colleagues,

For those of you who missed the press conference today, I am thrilled to announce that the latest round of the Discovery mission competition has chosen not one, but TWO Venus missions. Congratulations to Jim Garvin and the DAVINCI+ team, and Sue Smrekar and the VERITAS team! We eagerly anticipate next week's announcement by ESA in which we hope EnVision will be a victor. **The Decade of Venus has now become a reality!**

This seems like a golden opportunity to thank the Venus community for its perseverance over the long decades since the end of the Magellan mission. Everyone who continued to do great Venus science, developed high temperature technologies, served on VEXAG committees or helped with its guiding documents, and especially the past Chairs of VEXAG (Janet Luhmann, Sushil Atreya, Ellen Stofan, Sue Smrekar, Lori Glaze, and Bob Grimm) has led us to this moment when suddenly the US has a Venus program again.

Looking forward to seeing what the exoplanet next door has been hiding from us!

-Darby