

## Venus Town-Hall Recap - Sanjay Limaye, VEXAG Chair - 20 April 2012

Dear VEXAG Townhall Meeting attendees,

Thank you all for coming to the meeting during the LPSC. With quite a few folks from NASA HQ present, it was challenging to allocate the time. Regrettably insufficient time was left for discussion of VEXAG issues under the new budget scenario.

The central issue for VEXAG remains the same – a mission to Venus. In recent years, a Venus flagship mission was studied (2008), and several significant Venus missions were proposed to the New Frontiers-3 (2009) and Discovery-12 (2010) competitions. Although a Venus flagship mission was recommended by the Planetary Science Decadal Survey, the evolving projected budgets for this decade may preclude any flagship mission. Regrettably, none of the Discovery or New Frontiers proposed missions resulted in a selection for launch. Since the selection announcements for Discovery-12 and NF-3 were made, the VEXAG co-chairs have been analyzing the situation and have had discussions with the Discovery Program Scientist at HQ, with the SMD/PSD Director, and the Discovery/NF PIs.

This being an election year, predicting the NASA budget for FY2013 is going to be a challenge. However, community and individual input to congressional leaders may influence the outcome. Therefore, it is important for the entire Venus community to take an interest and do what they are comfortable undertaking.

The VEXAG Steering Committee is monitoring developments in the FY13 NASA budget discussions. In addition, I represent VEXAG on the Planetary Science Subcommittee (PSS). The PSS meetings are open to all (you may need to register in advance) and are announced through the Federal Register (you can also find the dates on [nasawatch.com](http://nasawatch.com)). The next meeting will be held at NASA HQ in Washington, DC on May 8-9, 2012.

Finally, VEXAG is considering an international Venus workshop in the Washington, DC metropolitan area for early November 2012. One of the key activities of the 2012 VEXAG meeting will be to update the Goals and Objectives for Venus Exploration. Everyone interested in shaping the future of Venus science and exploration should plan to attend.

In the mean time please continue to visit the VEXAG URL ([www.lpi.usara.edu/vexag](http://www.lpi.usara.edu/vexag)) for periodic updates (e.g., VEXAG Newsletter, and upcoming events) and Discussion Boards.

Sanjay Limaye, VEXAG Chair, 20 April 2012