

**Notes – Venus Town Hall Meeting
Fall American Geophysical Union (AGU) Meeting
San Francisco, California –Tuesday, December 10, 2013**

Welcome and Introduction – Lori Glaze

Lori welcomed the attendees and noted that 2013 was busy and productive year for the Venus Explorations Analysis Group (VEXAG). Key activities have included:

- Venus Town Hall Meeting at the Lunar Planetary Science Conference (LPSC)
- Overhaul of VEXAG website
- Comparative Climatology Symposium at NASA Headquarters (May 7)
- A Comparative Climatology Case Study has been selected by the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) Planetary Robotic Exploration Coordinating Group (June 2013); focus on Venus as a natural laboratory – led by Adriana Ocampo and Sanjay Limaye
- White paper and presentation to ESA’s Cosmic Vision for L-Class Venus missions (Colin Wilson)
- VEXAG response to Request for Information regarding NASA Announcements of Opportunity (Discovery, New Frontiers, Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer (JUICE)) – response is posted on VEXAG website
- Venus Spectral Rocket (VeSpR) sounding rocket (led by John Clarke, Boston University) flew in November as part of coordinated Venus observation campaign
- November 19 Venus Technology Forum
- November 20–21 VEXAG Meeting #11; focus on draft VEXAG documents - Goals, Objectives, and Investigations / Exploration Roadmap / Technology Plan
- Provided feedback to NASA Headquarters on Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES Research and Analysis (R&A) Restructuring
- A Special Session at Fall AGU Meeting on High Priority Investigations for Venus Exploration

Key upcoming VEXAG sponsored meeting include:

- Venus Exploration Targets Workshop (May 19–21, 2014) to be held at Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI) (Buck Sharpton)
- Comparative Climatology of the Terrestrial Planets II (July 7-10, 2015) to be held at NASA Ames (Jeff Hollingsworth)

Top objectives for 2013 into early 2014 include: (1) restructuring/updating the Goals, Objectives & Investigations (G-O-I) for Venus Exploration and (2) developing a Roadmap for Venus Exploration and a companion Venus Technology Plan.

Progress toward these objectives is as follows:

- G-O-I: New table has been out for community review since September;
- First draft of a companion text G-O-I document is available for community review online;
- First drafts of the new Venus Roadmap for Exploration and Venus Technology Plan are available for community review on-line

As it is important that these documents represent community opinion, we want to hear from you:

- Later in this Fall AGU Meeting, particularly at a the Poster on Thursday morning
- In January as the Goals, Objectives, and Investigations (GOI), and Roadmap groups work out any remaining consistency issues
- In February during incorporation of web-comments
- At an LPSC Town Hall meeting when updated GOI/Roadmap/Technology Plans will be rolled out
- In April, final edits will be incorporated and posted on the VEXAG website

Comments can be provided in January and February via:

1. On the VEXAG website (<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/>),
2. Directly to Lori Glaze, or
3. Directly to the group leads

GOI: Robbie Herrick

Roadmap: Doug Stetson

Technology Plan: Pat Beauchamp

NASA Chief Scientist Perspective - Ellen Stofan

Ellen, in parallel with Lori Glaze, provided comments on NASA science objectives from the perspective of her position as NASA Chief Scientist. She noted that NASA should endeavor to meet the recommendations of the *Decadal Survey*, particularly regarding their recommendations for the cadence of missions. To meet this, VEXAG is providing important input to NASA by prioritizing the Venus exploration goals and objectives.

Venus Exploration Targets Workshop - Buck Sharpton

Buck noted that a Venus Exploration Targets Workshop would be held at the Lunar and Planetary Institute on Monday–Wednesday, May 19–21, 2014 under the sponsorship of the Universities Space Research Association (USRA), LPI, VEXAG, and NASA. Primary goals of this workshop are to identify and evaluate key locations, transects, and regions (on the surface or in the atmosphere) for future exploration of Venus based on returned science potential based upon:

- Science goals and objectives (VEXAG GOIs)
- Measurement requirements (resolutions, sensitivities, observational duration, etc.)
- Risk management strategy

The schedule is a Call for Abstracts on January 20, 2014, with an Abstract due date of February 25, 2014. A Whitepaper Report will be generated after the workshop.

Workshop Format will be:

Day 1: Invited overview presentations followed by an evening poster discussion.

Day 2: Breakout sessions (on the surface, within the atmosphere, from orbit).

Day 3: Morning: continue breakouts; Afternoon: Capstone plenary

Student participation is encouraged. The student with best poster will receive travel assistance to a future workshop/conference. In addition, there will be a reduced registration fee for students of \$75 (professional registration will be \$150).

The Organizing Committee consists of Ben Bussey, Larry Esposito, Marty Gilmore, Lori Glaze, Robbie Herrick, Stephanie Johnston, Christopher Lee, Buck Sharpton (chair), and Christophe Sotin.

Restructuring of the Planetary Science Division R&A Program - Jim Green

Jim provided a timeline overview of Planetary R&A Restructuring.

In particular, findings from the 2010 National Research Council (NRC) report: *An Enabling Foundation for NASA's Earth and Space Science Missions (2010)* were that:

- NASA should ensure that Science Mission Directorate (SMD) mission-enabling activities are linked to the strategic goals of the agency and of the SMD.
- NASA's SMD should develop and implement an approach to actively managing its portfolio of mission-enabling activities.
- NASA should increase the number of scientifically and technically capable program officers so that they can devote an appropriate level of attention to the tasks of actively managing the portfolio of research—we have addressed this concern, but not through reorganization of the portfolio.

In response, the NASA Planetary Science Division (PSD) requested an assessment of the Planetary R&A program by the Planetary Sciences Subcommittee (PSS). Ron Greeley (PSS chair) formed the Supporting Research and Technology (SR&T) Working Group, which used the NRC report as a guide. The various mission-enabling activities of the PSD were reviewed and discussions were held with the NASA Program Officers. In parallel, comments were solicited from the planetary science community. The findings of this SR&T Working Group of the PSS (2011, Co-Chairs: Ron Greeley, Mark Sykes) were:

- Although, the current Planetary Science Division mission-enabling activities can be mapped clearly to the specific scientific objectives contained in the *NASA 2010 Science Plan*, many of the research and analysis programs overlap.
- Because the workload on the scientific community and the NASA program Officers has increased substantially in the last decade with regard to proposal preparation, review, and implementation, the PSD should consider consolidating programs to eliminate overlap as a part of the portfolio management strategy.”

Based on these recommendations, the PSD started the process to consolidate and reorganize the R&A program in 2012 with the goals of:

- Making the structure of the R&A program explainable to those outside of NASA.
- Making it easy for those outside of NASA to compute the amount of money spent on grants.
- Reducing the time between proposal submission and award announcement.
- Encouraging interdisciplinary research.

This in turn enables PSD strategic decision making to be more flexible in responding to changing research priorities and in reducing overlaps between program elements.

The restructured R&A program was vetted at a Virtual Town Hall earlier in December that provided an opportunity for the community to ask questions and indicate concerns relative to implementation. Currently a PSD analysis is underway to: optimize due dates and develop mitigation strategies (e.g., altering due dates, making more selections from ROSES 13, bridge funding, etc.)

This, in turn, will lead to:

- A draft of all changed ROSES 14 Calls in early January for community feedback through the NASA advisory structure (analysis/assessment groups –to the PSS), and
- Final calls issued throughout the year starting with the initial release of ROSES 14

Lori closed the meeting by thanking the participants for their time and insightful comments. All are urged to make use of the VEXAG website at <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag>. Stay tuned for updates to this website that will be pursued between now and the Lunar and Planetary Science Meeting March 17–21.

VEXAG Town Hall Agenda

Fall American Geophysical Union (AGU) Meeting, San Francisco
Tuesday, 10 December 2013, Fall AGU,

12:30 PM –1:30 PM PST, Moscone West Room 2004

12:30 PM - Welcome & Status of VEXAG activities – Lori Glaze (VEXAG Chair)

12:40 PM - VEXAG's Venus Exploration Targets Workshop - Buck Sharpton

12:50 PM - Venus Spectral Rocket Experiment (VeSPR) Flight Results - John Clarke

1:00 PM - Discussion of Restructuring of the Planetary Science Division R&A Program with Jim Green

1:20 PM - Wrap up – Lori Glaze (VEXAG Chair)

1:30 PM - Adjourn

Attendees
VEXAG Town Hall at Fall American Geophysical Union (AGU) Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2013

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