

Deliberations of the 13th VEXAG Meeting
27 – 29 October 2015
Webb Auditorium, NASA HQ, Washington, DC

1. VEXAG has been greatly served by having Dr. Adriana Ocampo as our NASA HQ Point of Contact (POC). Through her, the Venus community has been informed of relevant NASA activities and directions and she has helped our community navigate the NASA policies and procedures. We have also benefited from her representation of Venus interests in the day-to-day NASA HQ interactions and decisions. In short, her support to the Venus community has been invaluable and her absence in recent months has been felt. We sincerely desire her quick and full recovery and look forward to her continued support of the VEXAG when she returns to a full-time schedule. In the meantime, the VEXAG needs an interim person at NASA HQ who can actively serve as our backup POC. Therefore, **VEXAG encourages the PSD to identify a HQ POC who is available to engage in our activities and represent our needs as a backup until Dr. Ocampo resumes her role on a full-time basis.**
2. **VEXAG appreciates recent support from the Planetary Science Division, and strongly encourages continued support, of international opportunities for science participation and investigation.** The VEXAG community is enthusiastic about the imminent return of Akatsuki to Venus, and looks forward to the science results from the mission and NASA's Participating Scientists. VEXAG is excited about re-activation of the Venera-D Joint Science Definition Team and additional possible international cooperative possibilities of the upcoming European Space Agency's M-5 opportunity. VEXAG continues to encourage NASA participation in future international partnerships including mission collaboration and participating scientist programs. NASA support of the International Venus Exploration Working Group (COSPAR), and collaborating communities in IKI and ISRO will facilitate the needed dialogue towards the exploration programs. The Venus science community is energized by the Phase A Discovery selections of DAVINCI and VERITAS and hopeful about the prospect of one, or even two imminent, high value NASA/US missions to Venus.
3. In order for NASA to receive maximum scientific value from the community's investment in New Frontiers mission proposals, **VEXAG encourages the Planetary Science Division to provide adequate, additional time for New Frontiers proposers to complete their proposals after the 2016 Discovery selection(s) are announced.** This will best position the proposed New Frontiers missions to address Decadal Survey science objectives in the context of the newly selected Discovery missions(s).
4. VEXAG reaffirms the importance of a balanced program of Discovery, New Frontiers and Flagship missions to further the exploration of Venus. The Planetary Science Division is conducting further studies in FY16 and FY17 of the Ice Giants and Enceladus Flagship missions that were identified and prioritized by the 2011 Planetary Science Decadal Survey (PSDS). **VEXAG finds that reassessment of the Venus Climate Mission (VCM), which was also identified by the PSDS as a Flagship priority, is also needed.** Conducting further studies of the Venus Flagship mission immediately following the completion of the

Enceladus study should allow sufficient time for an in depth study in time to be evaluated by the next PSDS.

5. VEXAG encourages PSD support for upcoming opportunities and initiatives:
 - a. Continued efforts to initiate the Extreme Environments Challenge,
 - b. A workshop focused on science results based on laboratory, theoretical modeling, and simulation studies of a broad range of Venus topics,
 - c. 14th VEXAG meeting, November 2016, Location TBD, and
 - d. Comparative Climatology of the Terrestrial Planets – 3 (CCTP-3), in FY2017.