

Venus Express first results - An Overview

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The Venus Express spacecraft arrives to Venus and will be inserted into orbit on 11 April 2006. Venus Express will carry out an in depth study of the atmosphere of Venus and will study the plasma environment and its interaction with the solar wind as well as investigating selected surface related topics. The payload is composed of seven instruments; ASPERA -an instrument for in situ detection and characterisation of energetic neutral and charged particles, MAG - a dual sensor fluxgate magnetometer, PFS - an IR Fourier spectrometer, VIRTIS - a mapping UV-vis-IR spectrometer, Spicav/SOIR - an UV-IR stellar and solar occultation spectrometer, VMC - a four band wide angle camera, and VeRa - a radio science experiment including occultation and bistatic radar functions. This paper will give an overview of the mission and briefly summarize the first results from Venus orbit as an introduction to the invited talks to follow by the PIs of the respective instruments.