



Venus Express data distribution via the Planetary Science Archive

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Scientific and engineering data from ESA's planetary missions are made accessible to the worldwide scientific community via the Planetary Science Archive (PSA). The PSA consists of online services incorporating query, preview, download, notification and delivery basket functionality. Data are currently available from GIOTTO, Mars Express, and Huygens as well as several ground-based cometary observations. Data from Venus Express and Rosetta have undergone a Peer Review and we hope to make the first releases from these missions by April 2008. Data from SMART-1 are also in preparation and should be released by summer 2008.

The main goal of the archive initiative is to allow for the maximum scientific exploitation of the data now and in the long-term. The PSA provides a broad range of query possibilities. Users can search the database by targets, planetary features, observation geometry, dataset characteristics and time.

Primary emphasis of the archive is on the preservation of data and knowledge in the long-term. All data sets are peer reviewed and must undergo an additional PSA internal validation procedure. The PSA continuously discusses with the community and the instrument teams the definition of derived parameters useful for data identification via cross-discipline or cross-instrument searches.

As the PSA supports the concept of users and groups, proprietary data are protected

from unauthorized users.

All data are compatible with the Planetary Data System Standard and the PSA staff work in close collaboration with the PDS.

Venus Express was launched on 9 November 2005. It entered a Venusian orbit after a cruise of 153 days on 11 April 2006. After the commissioning phase, the mission entered a routine science phase on 26 May 2006.

The aim of Venus Express is to perform global investigations of the Venusian atmosphere and of the plasma environment, using results from the 7 instruments on board (ASPERA, MAG, PFS, SPICAV, VIRTIS, VeRa, VMC). First results and an educational movie can be seen on the ESA web site: <http://www.esa.int/venus>.

At the beginning of 2008, data from 5 instruments have begun the Peer Review process, and will be ingested in the PSA in late spring when the review is complete.

The data are prepared by the instrument teams, in coordination with the PSA archive team. After three months, they are collected on the PSA server for a final check before the Peer Review. Once the data set has successfully passed the Peer Review, it is published announcing the end of the proprietary period of six months.

The Venus Express mission follows the data set release concept that allows incremental delivery of new data to the archive and herewith to the scientific community.