

The Planetary Science Archive

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Scientific and engineering data from ESA's planetary missions are made accessible to the world-wide scientific community via the Planetary Science Archive (PSA). The PSA consists of online services incorporating search, preview, download, notification and shopping basket functionality. Besides data from the Giotto spacecraft and several ground-based cometary observations, the PSA contains data from the Mars Express, Smart-1 and Huygens spacecraft. In spring 2007 the PSA will provide the science and engineering data collected by Rosetta until July 2006 and data collected by Venus Express until November 2005.

The main goal of the archive initiative is to contribute to the maximum scientific exploitation of the data. The PSA provides a broad range of query possibilities. User can search the database by targets, planetary features, observation geometry, dataset characteristics and time information.

Primary emphasis of the archive is on long-term data and knowledge preservation. 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 to the Planetary Data System Standard and the PSA staff work in close collaboration with the PDS.