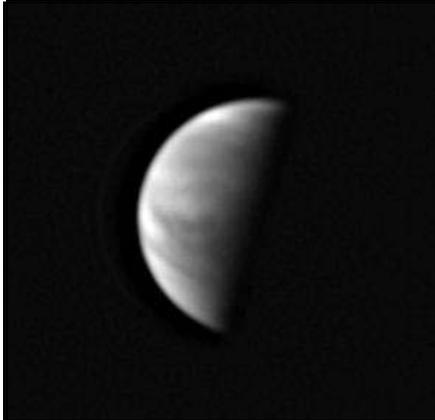


CALL FOR PROFESSIONAL - AMATEUR VENUS OBSERVATIONS IN 2016 - 2017



Venus as imaged on 2012 Mar 26 17:10 UT by Christian Viladrich, Paris, France; 15.2 cm (6.0 in.) reflector; Schuller UV filter; Seeing (not specified), Transparency (not specified), Phase (k) = 0.515, Apparent Diameter = 23.6", Visual Magnitude = -4.35. Good contrast UV image depicts bright cloud features and banded dusky markings, plus horizontal "V" or "Y" shaped markings common at UV wavelengths. S is at the top of the image.

(Statement by ALPO Venus Section Coordinator Julius Benton)

The following has been kindly issued from the JAXA Akatsuki Team for Ground-based Observation so that ALPO Venus Section observers can start planning right away to begin their observations of Venus in support of this very important program. The intent is for all observations to be sent to the ALPO Venus Section as well as to the Akatsuki team. More details for observers will be forthcoming in the days to follow.

(Official statement from the JAXA Akatsuki Team)

"The members of JAXA's mission to Venus "Akatsuki/Venus Climate Orbiter" are glad to announce an international call for ground-based observers to collaborate with the Akatsuki mission whose orbit insertion was successfully performed at the beginning of December 2014."

"Based on great success of the ground-based campaigns organized in the past years during the previous mission to Venus ESA's "Venus Express", we intend to create a worldwide network of amateur and professional observers to support the Akatsuki observations to be carried out during the

years 2016-2017. To this aim, we are preparing a special website devoted to the coordination, discussion and registration of the different observations of Venus to be made by the Venus community. Moreover, we would like to highlight the following:

Ground-based observers registered in our website will have access to the calendar of Akatsuki observations, and we will provide concrete information about the geometry of Venus observations from the Earth and from the spacecraft, specifying the time intervals during which Akatsuki carries out observations, At the same time, observers can register online their own past and future observations to better coordinate with the Akatsuki team and other observers as well.

The Akatsuki team will consider observers' instrumentation (spectrometers, filters for imaging,...) in order to suggest specific campaigns to cover relevant gaps in the mission's dataset. Venus images taken with filters not included in the spacecraft payload are of great value to the mission. Atmospheric spectra and tables with high-level products (such as winds from Doppler-shift techniques) will be also welcome both prior or after their corresponding publication.

Ground-based observers also have the chance of participating in the papers to be published by the Akatsuki team by sharing their own data. Registered users will be able to upload their images, spectra or tables of data to the Akatsuki server. Our team will transform the images into the same format as the Akatsuki images to make them ready-to-use for the incoming works. Those observers whose images were finally selected by the members of the Akatsuki team will be invited to participate as co-authors in the corresponding articles to be published."

"As a first step, we encourage professional and amateur observers to join our network by registering their personal information in the following list of observers. In case of doubts, please contact us sending an e-mail to the address: coordinatewithakatsuki@gmail.com ."