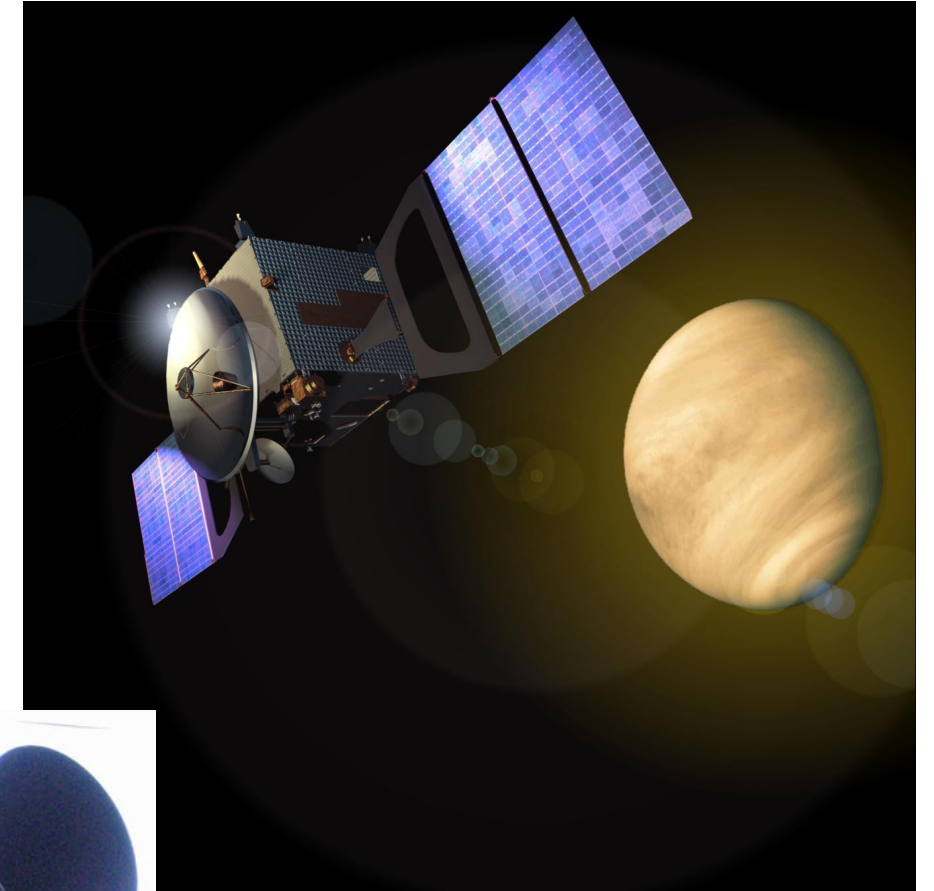


Joint EUROPLANET N3 and N4 workshop on “Amateur and Professional Astronomers Coordinated Observations in Support of Venus Express & SMART-1”

More than a dozen amateur astronomers from Austria, Germany, Italy, UK met with representatives from ESA and other space science organizations for lively discussions about future amateur support for specific ESA missions.



- **Time/ Place:** June 24-25, 2006, IWF, Graz, Austria
- **Participants:** 20 attendees (14 amat.)
- **Primary focus:** Organization of the coordinated joint amateur / professional astronomer observational campaign(s) dedicated to VEX and SMART-1; discussion of joint observations plans.



- **Topics under discussion:**

- Technical issues regarding amateur and professional astronomers collaboration
 - * amateur involvements into coordinated campaigns
 - * data delivery (format, storage, etc.)
 - * webpages, databanks
 - * communication / coordination
 - * data management
- Types of observations needed for VEX and SMART-1



Advantages of amateurs

- Large number of observers
(better coverage of event)
- High quality of equipment
- Easy access to instruments and high mobility
- Public outreach aspect