

Current status of Venus orbiter Akatsuki

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The first Venus probe of Japan, Akatsuki, was launched in May 2010. The Venus orbit insertion maneuver conducted in December 2010 has failed due to a malfunction of the propulsion system, and at present the spacecraft is orbiting the Sun. Akatsuki will have a chance to encounter Venus in 2015; the project team is examining the possibility of conducting an orbit insertion maneuver again at this opportunity.

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