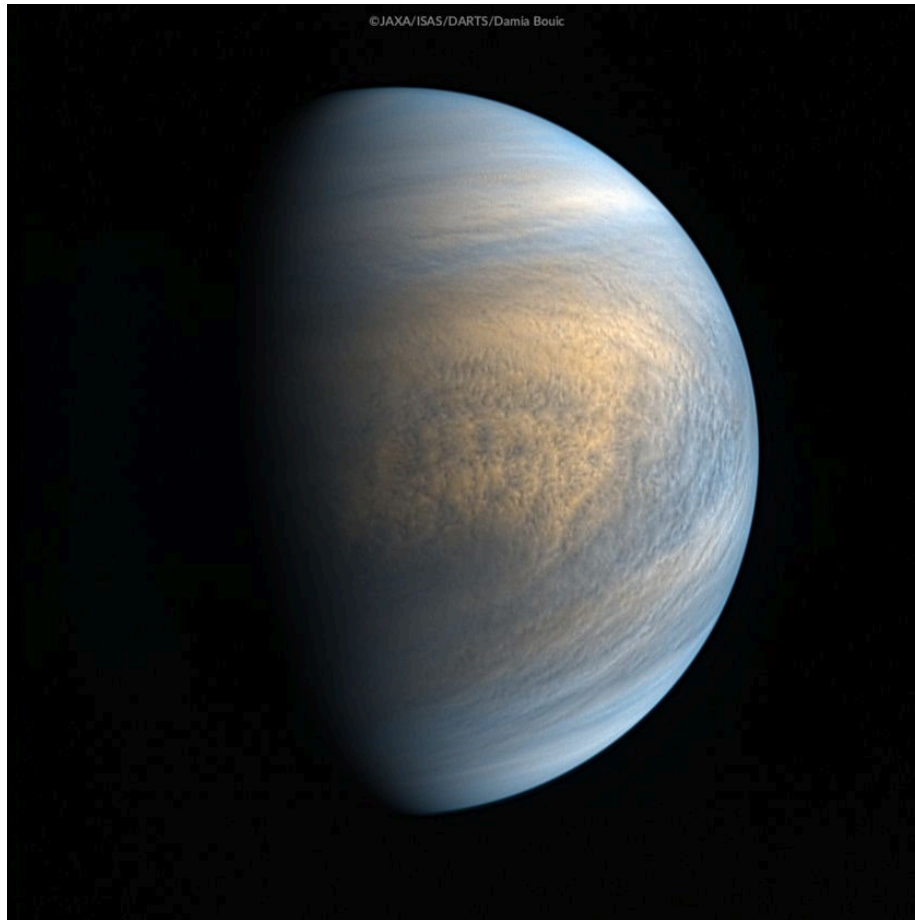


07 December



(Picture credits: *JAXA / ISAS / DARTS / Damia Bouic*)

Anniversary of Akatsuki Venus orbital insertion (2015)

Space agency/country: JAXA
Mission: *Akatsuki*

On this day in 2015, JAXA's first Venus Climate Orbiter entered the planet's orbit. The first such attempt was made five years earlier with the *Nozomi* mission, but on that occasion the mission did not succeed. *Akatsuki*, also known as Venus Climate Orbiter and Planet-C, was launched from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center in May 2015. Japan is the fourth country/agency to accomplish a Venus orbital insertion, after Russia, the US, and the European Space Agency (ESA). The spacecraft was officially operational from 2016 to 2017, during which time it made important and unexpected discoveries related to the climate of Venus. The project also provided new data on Venus' clouds and observed the vertical structure of the planet's atmosphere in detail.

For more information:

<https://www.spaceflightinsider.com/missions/solar-system/second-times-charm-japanese-akatsuki-spacecraft-enters-venus-orbit/>
<https://www.space.com/38311-akatsuki.html>