Venus Exploration in the New Human Spaceflight Age

- Human missions to the vicinity of Venus are increasingly being considered an important potential element of human space exploration strategy.

- Some human mission trajectories to Mars include flybys of Venus which provide opportunities to practice deep space human operations, reduce the delta-V needed for opposition-class Mars missions, and offer safe-return-to-Earth options.

- Venus flybys, as part of missions to Mars or as dedicated Venus missions, also enable new and unique science opportunities for Venus, including “human in the loop” studies of the second planet.

Human flybys of Venus on the way to Mars provide new, unique science opportunities, and the time to begin coordinating such “Earth to Mars via Venus” missions is now.