

## Dawn's VIR Interactive

Following is the summary of the individual reviews that was distributed to the reviewers prior to the panel discussion by telecon. This information was used to guide the panel discussion; it is included here to provide a complete report of the review process.

Reviewer	Overall Rating	Recommendation
Education Reviewer	Very Good	Recommended
Education Reviewer	Outstanding	Recommended
Education Reviewer		
Science Reviewer	Very Good	Minor Revisions
Science Reviewer	Good	Minor Revisions

### Strengths

- The product's *Mission Data* is linked to current NASA data and is updated on a regular basis (in the *Where Is Dawn?* exercise).
- The description of the mission contains a very thorough overview.
- The content and simulations are accurate.
- The images and artwork are from NASA and are high quality.
- The Web site ties together a plethora of resource material for the Dawn Mission, as well as the background science and engineering. References for further information are actively linked to Web sites. Most websites are current (only the link to Spaceguard Science Pages was unavailable.)
- The product contains an excellent dictionary and relevant biographies.

### Weaknesses

- There is some audio in the videos that is of poor quality and difficult to hear (though there are subtitles provided). The bottom half of the third line of the subtitles is cut in half by some monitors.
- The location of some of the material can be difficult to determine. Web links in the Dawn Classroom are not active and they cannot be copied. A site map or outline would make navigation much easier.
- The materials are too high level in places for students and teachers. For example, terms such as a Shafer telescope and an Offner spectrometer are not explained or included in the dictionary. These technical terms need to be defined.

### Suggestions/Comments

- The product presents an excellent, but simple, description of a VIR Spectrometer. The interactive simulations of the ion engine and charge field are exceptional. The charge field quality is near that of a similar commercial product.
- Suggest explaining what is expected to be learned from studying Ceres and Vesta. Suggest also explaining how this research ties to previous missions.
- Suggest using this opportunity to teach students about spectral analysis.
- The program is intended for grades 9 through 14. Many activities for middle school students were included though. The intended audience could possibly be expanded to include middle school students.
- One reviewer commented that it is "An excellent collection of space science, physics, and chemistry resources which will enhance any class discussion about the application of theory."