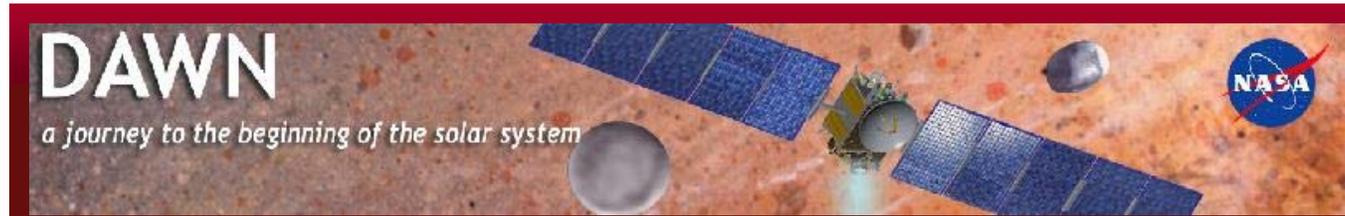


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Dawn Mission Outreach E-News

32nd Edition July 1, 2011

VESTA IN 3-D ON NASA TV THE LATEST AND GREATEST FROM OUR FAVORITE MISSION

W. James Adams, deputy director of NASA's Planetary Science Directorate; Chris Russell, Dawn principal investigator; Carol Raymond, deputy principal investigator; and Robert Mase, Dawn project manager.

NASA and Dawn team members offered a great press conference June 23rd, updating us on Dawn's progress to date and upcoming mission events.

It was inspiring to hear Dawn's story, from the early vision of the mission, to launch in 2007, to the spacecraft's arrival at Vesta this summer, to plans for the next year of data gathering at Vesta. Carol Raymond walked us through a comparison between the best imagery we have to date from Hubble with increasingly high resolution images received from Dawn. Throughout the conference, we got hints of the thrilling science to come from the unexplored new world of Vesta.

- Read the associated [press release](#).
- Read a [transcription](#) including the videos that help us access the science.



Image introducing an animation of Dawn's journey to Vesta over the past four years highlighted by Bob Mase, Dawn's project manager.
Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCLA/McREL

DAWN IN THE COMMUNITY: ROCKIN' VESTA FIESTA!

VESTA FIESTA: PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER



If you are in the Los Angeles area, Vesta Fiesta at the Pasadena Convention Center August 6, 2011, promises to be a kick for the entire family. Booths with activities to unpack the fascinating science and engineering behind Dawn's journey to the main asteroid belt; Ask a Scientist, where mission team members will be available to answer questions and share mission science and engineering; and the broadcast from JPL of the latest word and images from NASA Discovery Program's Dawn mission team members - will make a fiesta you won't want to miss!

Visit Dawn's website for the flagship Vesta Fiesta's [full schedule of events](#).

VESTA FIESTA: ACROSS THE NATION

Don't live in southern California?

- The Dawn mission science presentations will be streamed live! Keep posted for details.
- Find a party near you on our [interactive map](#).
- Or, better yet, PLAN YOUR OWN [Vesta Fiesta!](#)
 - [Host](#)
 - [Register](#)
 - [Resources](#)



DAWN MISSION UPDATES

MISSION STATUS - UPDATES NOW WEEKLY!

June 17, 2011

Dawn Increases Frequency of Vesta Observations

While still devoting most of its time in the approach phase to ion thrusting, Dawn now is observing Vesta more often. It halted thrusting on June 14 for navigation images and more test observations with the visible and infrared mapping spectrometer to prepare for later science observations. Today, it acquired another set of navigation images with the camera. Dawn is 225,000 kilometers (140,000 miles) from Vesta today and approaching it at 140 meters per second (310 mph).

June 24, 2011

Approach Phase Half Complete

Now more than halfway through the approach phase, Dawn completed another week of ion thrusting. It stopped thrusting twice this week to collect images for navigation. Dawn is 145,000 kilometers (90,000 miles) from Vesta today and approaching it at 110 meters per second (250 mph).

- Watch a [video](#) of Vesta's rotation from June 1, 2011 for evidence of possible surface features!
- Trace Dawn's journey since launch through its (now weekly!) [mission updates](#).



Dawn spacecraft's latest image of protoplanet Vesta on June 24, 2011. Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCLA/MPS/DLR/IDA

DAWNSTINATION!

June 23, 2011

From Dawn's Chief Engineer, Dr. Marc Rayman:

Vesta beckons, and Dawn responds. Now more than halfway through its [approach to Vesta](#), Dawn continues creeping up on the destination it has been pursuing since it began its interplanetary travels. The separation between them gradually shrinks as the probe's ion thrusting brings its orbit around the sun into a closer and closer match with Vesta's. At the same time, the giant protoplanet's gravity tugs gently on the approaching ship, luring it into orbit.



-Excerpted from Dawn Journal, June 23, 2011

- How do Dawn navigators know where Vesta is? For answers to this and insight into other mission preparations as Dawn begins to move into orbit around Vesta, read Marc's complete [Dawn Journal](#).
- Explore more mission concepts in the [Dawn Journal archives](#).

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT: GET READY, GET SET, GO!!

What's a party without great games?

And if it's a party celebrating Vesta- what fun to have them unpack the cool science of the Dawn mission at the same time. Build (and bust!) your own [Vesta Piñata](#). Race to Vesta along a path that models the Dawn spacecraft in the [Dawn Relay Race](#). Get ready for your own asteroid (protoplanet!) gazing by looking at the star maps that helped astronomers pick out Vesta in the night sky with [In Search Of...](#) And many more! We've developed leader guides for the party planner in your community - the big sister, or camp counselor, or game parent.



Check out **all** of Vesta Fiesta's [fun and games!](#)

Consider having your own [Vesta Fiesta](#) - remember, it can be a private event.

FOLLOW DAWN!

Get on-the-minute mission and science updates during this exciting year as Dawn zips along in its trajectory to Vesta in the main asteroid belt!



Follow the Dawn Mission on:

- [Twitter!](#)
- [Facebook!](#)

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK, FORWARD OUR NEWS, SUBSCRIBE!

The Dawn Education and Public Outreach team is continually seeking ways to improve the mission website and is eager to receive your feedback. Please share your thoughts by completing [a brief survey](#).

Please feel free to forward this e-mail to others interested in NASA missions. We welcome new subscribers! Visit the [Dawn E-News](#) page to sign up for the [Dawn E-News RSS feed](#) or to join the Dawn mission E-News mailing list.

Dawn Mission Outreach E-News features information about the mission, its outreach website, and products, services, and materials available from the Dawn Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) team. Dawn is the ninth Discovery mission in NASA's Science Mission Directorate and is a collaborative partnership made up of the University of California, Los Angeles; Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Orbital Sciences Corporation; Los Alamos National Laboratory; German Aerospace Center; Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research; Italian Space Agency; and Italian National Institute of Astrophysics. Dawn outreach materials are developed under contract by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), Denver, CO.

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