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Science from Above

July 19, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Re: VEN μ S periodic news – July 2018

Below is the latest information about the VEN μ S project.

1. After several months of "birth pangs", since June 2018 VEN μ S images have been distributed to end-users who signed a contract with BGU/ISA at L1.
2. The Scientific Center at BGU is preparing now the L2 images that soon will be distributed upon request. L3 will be followed.
3. All previous available images, from October 2017 to June 2018, will be re-processed by CNES and will be available to the Israeli end-users. This will take roughly until September 2018.
4. Efforts are done to reduce the preprocessing time by CNES so we expect that near real time images will be available to the Israeli end-users.
5. We expect the BGU VEN μ S web site will be available by the end of the month (July). Images (quick looks) will be able to be observed and L1, L2, and L3 will be able to be downloaded through the web site.
6. If someone wants to run atmospheric correction by himself, using the 6S package (<http://loawww.univ-lille1.fr/Wsixs/>), atmospheric variables, i.e., aerosol optical thickness and water vapor, are available from 4 AERONET stations, running by BGU, at (1) Eilat; (2) Sede_Boker; (3) Weizmann_Institute; and (4) Migal. AERONET link – https://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov/new_web/index.html. Other useful information exists in the images' header.
7. ISA encourages international collaboration with VEN μ S. In this regard, there is an attempt to increase the number of the VEN μ S research sites beyond the current 110 sites. Preferable countries for collaboration are Greece, Serbia, Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico, but other countries as well. To fulfill this goal, ISA will announce a new call for proposals by the end of the month (July). Deadline – end of August 2018. In September 2018, CNES will simulate the feasibility to observe the new sites due to the satellite's constraints. If approved, images will be available by October 2018. No research money will be provided by ISA.
8. **Save the date:** the 1st International VEN μ S will be held at Sede Boker on Nov. 20-21, 2018. This meeting will be devoted to state-of-the-art presentations by scientists as well as workshops on selected topics (e.g., calibration, atmospheric corrections, and more).

9. If you know a colleague that accidently is missing from the mailing list, please notify us at venus@post.bgu.ac.il
10. If you want to unsubscribe from the mailing least, please send an e-mail to venus@post.bgu.ac.il

Regards,
Manuel and Arnon

