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Solar input at Venus and Mars during the 2012 conjunction

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After a summary of possible solar effects on the plasma environment of unmagnetized planets, we focus on the planetary conjunction in the inner heliosphere during early 2012. This time period is favorable due to the proximity of near-Earth solar spacecraft to Venus and Mars. From their measurements the solar wind characteristics and the stream interaction regions arriving at Venus and Mars can be predicted. Since the solar activity was increasing this time, these planets were even hit by various ICMEs.