

Future Titan Saturn System Outreach

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Abstract

Astronomy is the oldest exact science that contributed enormously to the development of civilization from prehistoric times and continues to contribute till today. Space science offers enormously with many spin-offs. A very important constituent of space exploration is that it offers great pleasure to the layperson and there are many people that show great interest to celestial phenomena and follow with pleasure the results of space exploration. Everybody feels familiar with celestial bodies and the ringed giant, Saturn, the veiled Titan that has many similarities with primordial Earth and the god of earthquakes, Enceladus. Science expects a lot from a new space mission to Saturn and its satellites, and especially Titan and Enceladus. It is very important to continue outreach for a future mission to Titan and Enceladus, making familiar to all these very intriguing astronomical bodies that show a wealth of interesting features and complex phenomena. Outreach is a prerequisite for any mission. Outreach and popularization helps to guide everybody to become familiar to the importance and the goals of the mission in a way that she/he feels that can understand and follow. The best means are lectures to the public, exhibitions, TV programmes, articles and interviews in newspapers and special issues of magazines published and distributed with them. Internet sites, leaflets, a comic, 3 D constructions with hardboard or plastic, CDs and theatrical plays for Saturn and its satellites. Leaflets, booklets and attractive posters published by Universities, Institutes or especially ESA are also very useful. Public outreach

activities will include: internet sites, leaflets, a comic, 3 D constructions with hardboard or plastic, public lectures, TV and radio programmes, CD and DVDs, exhibitions, articles in magazines and newspapers, theatrical play for Saturn and its satellites. Cooperation with amateur astronomers around Europe is an excellent means for promoting astronomy and we use such collaborations on several occasions in a combination of observations (Saturn and its rings), lectures to the public and exhibitions. The International Year of Astronomy 2009 offers a unique opportunity to promote a new space mission to Titan, Enceladus and the Saturnian system.