

S I X T H S T A R T T O V E N U S

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Launching of AIS "VENERA-6" was realized in the Soviet Union on 10 January 1969 at 0852 hours Moscow Time with the view of a fuller study of planet Venus and of obtaining a larger volume of scientific information concerning it.

AIS "VENERA-6" will conduct scientific investigations concomitantly with AIS "VENERA-5" launched on 5 January 1969. AIS "VENERA-6" must perform a smooth descent in the atmosphere on the night side of the planet, just as should AIS "VENERA-5". The concomitant flight of two automatic interplanetary stations will provide the possibility of determining the parameters of the atmosphere at different regions of the planet.

AIS "VENERA-6" will reach planet Venus in the middle of May 1969.

Without the last stage of the carrier rocket, the weight of the interplanetary station is 1130 kilograms. Located on board the station are the pennants of the Soviet Union with V. I. Lenin's bas-relief and the image of the Soviet State's coat of arms.

The scheme of placement of AIS "VENERA-6" into a heliocentric trajectory is analogous to that of AIS "VENERA-5".

AIS "VENERA-6" emerged into the precalculated flight trajectory. Radio communication and the reception of scientific information are conducted in the frequency of 922.763 Mhz. In order to obtain the required flight accuracy trajectory correction is foreseen.

At 1400 hours on 10 January 1969 the station was at 65.6 thousand km from Earth above the point of the ground with coordinates 98°47' E.long. and 17°41' N.latitude.

At that time "VENUS-5" was at the distance of one million three-hundred ninety one thousand kilometers from Earth.

According to telemetric information the onboard apparatus of both stations VENERA-5 and VENERA-6 operated normally. The guidance is performed from the Center of Long-Range Space Communications. The incoming information is processed by the Coordinating Computation Center.

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Translated by ANDRE L. BRICHANT
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