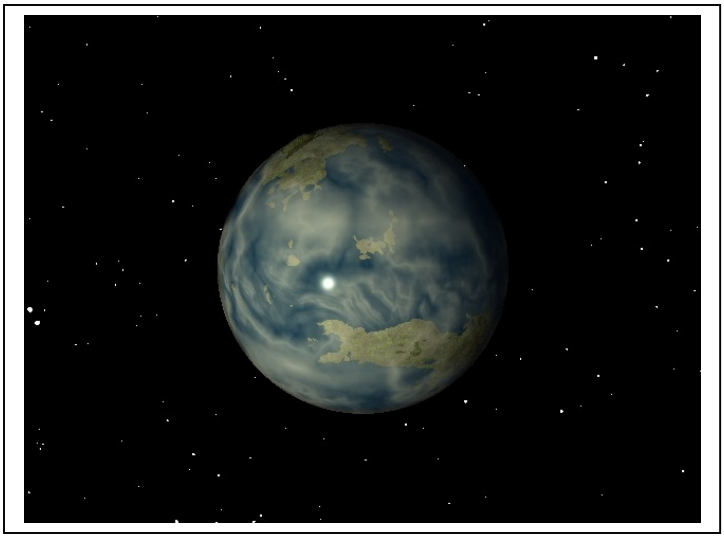
VENUS

World Log:	Venus
System Data	
System Name:	Sol
Map Coordinates:	1.23N 2.79 W
Number of Class M Present:	5
Planetary Data	
Position in System:	II
Number of Satellites:	0
Planetary Gravity:	0.9 g
Planetary Size:	
Diameter:	12,102 km
Equatorial Circumference:	38,000 km
Total Surface Area:	459,000,000 sq km
Percent Land Mass:	18%
Total Land Area:	82,620,000 sq km
Planetary Conditions:	
Length of Day:	37 hours
Atmospheric Density:	Thick
General Climate:	Tropical
Mineral Content:	
Normal Metals:	60%
Radioactives:	5%
Gemstones:	Trace
Industrial Crystals:	Trace
Special Minerals:	Trace
Cultural Data	
Dominant Life Form:	Human
Technological/ Sociopolitical Index:	999999-88
Planetary Trade Profile:	DDDDDDD/B (C)



Notes:

A blistering, desolate and lifeless world hidden under a choking, unabating layer of carbon-dioxide clouds and acid rains- this was the Venus of only 250 years ago. Now, Venus (or Sol II) is a stunningly beautiful, tropical world that supports 2.3 billion inhabitants. Its story is one of grand dreams, stubborn perseverance and historic cooperation.

Venus has always been a curiosity to Terrans. Called “the evening star” and the “morning star”, its true nature was hidden from Terra; the cloud-covered orb refused to relinquish its secrets. Speculation abounded that this sister-world of Earth was a tropical world supporting primeval life. As time passed and science grew, the data gathered stubbornly refused to support such hopeful ideas. With the series of Russian *Venera* probes and its pictures and data, Venus revealed that it was a hellish place.

After the United States *Magellan* mission to Venus in the early -1/90s, focus turned away from Venus and on towards more practical worlds for exploration and colonization. Terra’s Goddard Moonbase on Luna officially opened in -1/98 and Marsbase 1, Terra’s first interplanetary outpost, became fully operational in 0/12. Manned missions into the asteroid belt and beyond increasingly grew in number.

In 0/20, brilliant Terran scientist Dr. C. Cornelius met with counterparts on Marsbase 2 to begin the final preparatory stages of the Martian Extraterrestrial Life Detection program to search for evidence of former life on Mars. During the meeting, Dr. Cornelius, always searching for the next challenge, stunned his colleagues by proposing a new interplanetary project: the terraforming of Venus.

The terraforming of Mars had been discussed by scientists for decades by this point, but no serious scientists believed that then-current technology or any in the foreseeable future could be developed to terraform Venus. Dr. Cornelius met stiff resistance at the Marsbase 2 meeting, but undaunted, took his case to the United Nations Space Council. During a spirited and amazing presentation in 0/24, Dr. Cornelius secured initial funding for a test program to determine the feasibility of terraforming Venus.

By 0/26, the upper-atmospheric cloud seeding of Venus with Terran blue-green algae and precision bombardment of the planet with ice asteroids were well under way. Within a year, the axial rotation speed doubled and with it a weak Van Allen belt formed. The algae multiplied at an astounding rate due to the carbon dioxide clouds. More telling than anything, however, were the rains. Although instantly converted back into vapor several meters above the surface due to the 500 deg Celsius surface temperature, the very fact that the project scientists had gotten this far astounded believer and skeptic alike.

Things progressed slowly after the initial success. Project scientists knew even before the project began that the amount of heat energy on Venus was enormous and that the energy could only be dissipated at a certain rate. In addition, the acidic nature of the surface had to be neutralized. A 60 year period of slow and gradual surface cooling and neutralization was predicted before the next phase of the project could begin.

In 0/68, only three years after first contact with the Vulcans, a Vulcan delegation arrived on Terra to discuss a formal alliance between Vulcan, Alpha Centauri and Terra. During this meeting, the Vulcans were taken to Venus and Mars to observe the terraforming projects there. Even the advanced Vulcans were taken aback by the scope and ambition of the terraforming projects. The delegation asked if Vulcan could participate in the monumental projects, and the help was enthusiastically accepted.

First contact with the Andorians occurred in 0/75. By 0/82, Andorian scientists lent their expertise in climate control techniques to the terraforming of Venus and Mars. With the best minds from three worlds working on the project, titanic hurdles were overcome and the first manned landing occurred on Venus on Stardate 1/0103.15- decades ahead of even the most liberal initial Terran estimates of such an event.

Today, terraforming is still proceeding on Venus, although the project is in its later stages. Vast, shallow seas cover the world and three main continents (once Venusian highlands) rise from the sparkling blue water. Several large islands and island chains dot the planet as well. Notable features on the world include the Artemis River, flanked by soaring canyon walls; the two kilometer deep inland Sacajawea Sea; breathtaking Deering Falls; and the Maxwell Montes- home to the highest peaks on Venus. Adventure-seekers are sure to love the Dali Chasm and its ferocious rapids. One can also experience the beautiful western sunrise and eastern sunset.

Major cities include the capital, Isthar; the cultural center of Venus, Cytherea; Cornelius City, home to the Venusian Science Academy; and seaside city of Mylitta. Also on Venus is the Venusian Space Elevator, located on the continent of Aphrodite Terra.

One of the most amazing features of modern-day Venus is its flora and fauna. Using advanced paleoproteomics and related techniques, Terran scientist have been able to recreate scores of formally extinct plants and animals from Earth's ancient past for "seeding" on Venus. Although the move was extremely controversial, the opportunity to bring these organisms back from extinction in a totally virgin environment -save from transplanted microorganisms used in the terraforming process- was too irresistible to the majority of Terrans.

Today, large conifer forest together with progymnosperms and ferns cover Venus in a blanket of green. Within these great forests and in the shallow seas roam representatives of the majestic dinosaurs and other prehistoric life from Earth's past. Ironically, Venus has come to mirror what Terrans had once envisioned it should be- and in doing so has become a testament to the power of human will, imagination and daring.

Version 2.0 by Lee Wood (http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/Morena_Shipyards)