



The Surface of Titan as Observed by The Huygens Probe

J.C Zarnecki

Planetary & Space Sciences Research Institute, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, UK (J.C.Zarnecki@open.ac.uk)

Although the European Space Agency's Huygens Probe was primarily designed to make measurements of the properties of Titan's atmosphere, during its 148 minute of descent data and 72 minutes of surface data, the 6 instruments were able to make direct and indirect measurements of various properties of Titan's previously obscured surface. Some of the features observed appear remarkably Earth-like in certain respects, yet they are formed with "alien" materials under conditions very different from the terrestrial environment. The latest surface data from these instruments will be presented as well as preliminary attempts to interpret these data. Amongst the features observed are icy hills, drainage channels, dried up lake beds, icy pebbles smoothed by fluvial action and gravel. Mention will also be made of complementary observations from the Cassini orbiter which continues to perform close flybys of Titan.