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Exploring Protoplanets Through the Dawn Mission

Dr. Carol Raymond
Deputy Principal Investigator
Dawn Mission, JPL

Wednesday, May 2, 2012
8:00 pm
Hameetman Auditorium
Cahill Building
California Institute of Technology

In July of 2011, the Dawn spacecraft reached Vesta, the second most massive asteroid in the main belt, and has since returned a wealth of remarkable scientific findings.

These have included the confirmation of Vesta as the parent body of a common class of meteorites (the Howardite-Eucrite-Diogenites), evidence for a substantial iron core, an impact record consistent with recent dynamical models driven by giant planet migration, and intriguing brightness and compositional variations.

Vesta's nature is transitional between an asteroid and a planet, and represents one of the oldest intact planetary building blocks from the beginning of the solar system.

Dawn's novel ion-propulsion system allows the spacecraft to travel further and orbit the dwarf planet Ceres in 2015.

No registration is required for this free lecture. Seating is limited and is available on a first come, first served basis.