Cassini’s final images were taken September 14, 2017, at 12:59 PM PDT. The information gathered from them will allow scientists to better characterize atmospheric conditions at the location of Cassini’s final “resting” place where it was vaporized and became part of the planet.

Collecting science data about Saturn’s atmosphere until the very end, Cassini’s last signal was received on September 15, 2017 at 4:55 AM PDT, marking the end of detailed exploration of the Saturn system for this remarkable spacecraft.

Cassini’s final visible image is a night time view of Saturn, illuminated by sunlight reflected off Saturn’s rings, and showing where it would ultimately end its mission.

The above view shows Saturn in the thermal infrared, at a wavelength of 5 microns as seen in the Visible and Infrared Mapping spectrometer. Heat coming from Saturn’s interior is shown in red with dark clouds silhouetted against that inner glow. Inside the white ellipse is where Cassini plunged into Saturn’s atmosphere.