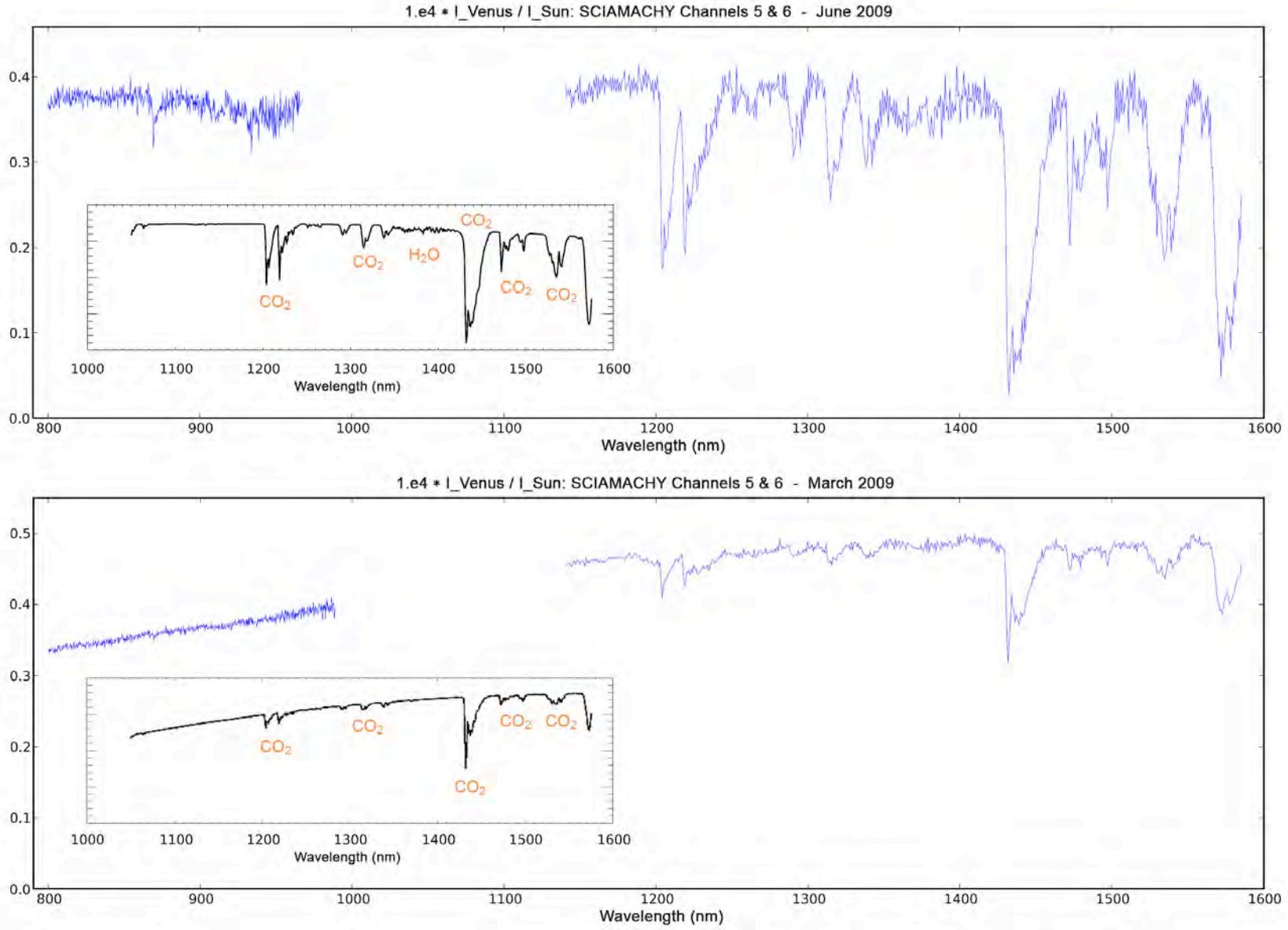

Figure 1
SCIAMACHY spectra of Venus, measured in the near infrared range between 800 nanometres and 1.6 micrometres. Wavelengths between 970 nanometres and 1.1 micrometres with inexact calibration have been masked. The model created by SRON / Netherlands Institute for Space Research (shown as an insert in the main charts) is based on carbon dioxide (CO_2) as the main absorber with sulphuric acid clouds (H_2SO_4) as the source of scattering. Credit: DLR/SRON.

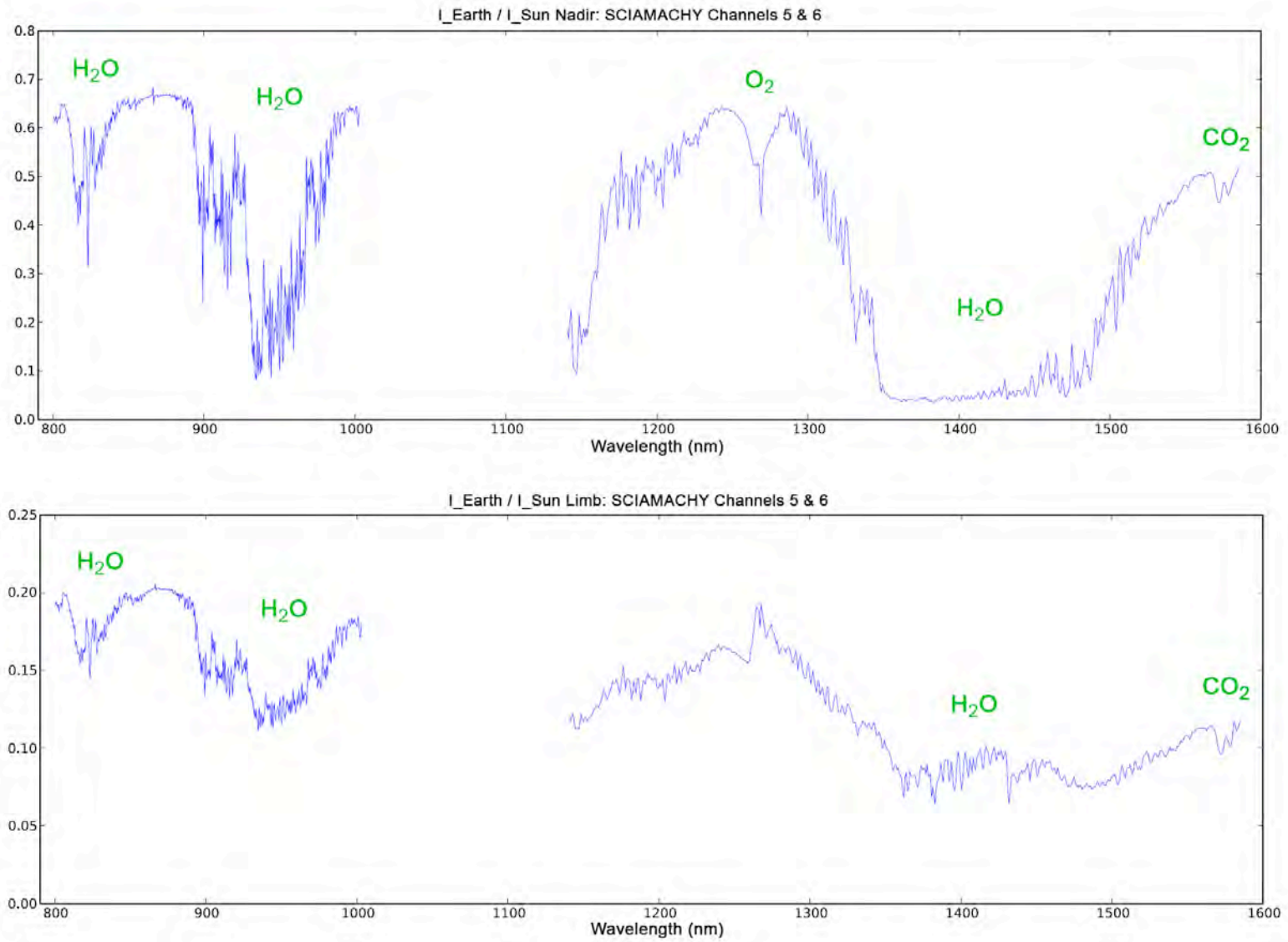

Figure 2
SCIAMACHY spectra of Earth's atmosphere over the tropics in the same wavelength range as in Figure. Both spectra show the strong absorption of water vapour. In terms of the viewing geometry, the upper spectrum corresponds to the June measurement of Venus and the lower one to the March measurement. Credit: DLR.