Initial results of global imaging of PMCs from the CIPS experiment on the AIM satellite

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The Aeronomy of Ice in the Mesosphere (AIM) spacecraft was launched into sunsynchronous orbit April 25, 2007. The objectives of AIM are to study why polar mesospheric clouds (PMCs) form and why they vary. One of the three instruments on AIM is the Cloud Imaging and Particle Size (CIPS) experiment. We will describe the CIPS instrument; a 4 camera wide-field UV imager designed to measure PMC morphology and particle properties. We will present the first science results from CIPS including new PMC features, particle size, and ice content. The CIPS images show oval cloud features with thin bright walls with dimmer clouds inside with sizes that vary from a few 10's of km to hundreds of km; very bright, spatially small (~10 km radius) clouds; and large (~10,000 sq. km) regions with no clouds present in the heart of the cloud season. The northern 2007 season will be compared to the southern 2007/2008 season.

(Note: File corrected by Conference Officials)