

SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM (A3)
Small Bodies Missions and Technologies (4)

Author: Dr. Stephan Ulamec

Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR), Germany, stephan.ulamec@dlr.de

Dr. Jens Biele

Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR), Germany, jens.biele@dlr.de

Mrs. Barbara Cozzoni

Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR), Germany, barbara.cozzoni@dlr.de

Mrs. Cinzia Fantinati

Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR), Germany, cinzia.fantinati@dlr.de

Mr. Philippe Gaudon

Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France, philippe.gaudon@cnes.fr

Dr. Koen Geurts

Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR), Germany, koen.geurts@dlr.de

Mr. Eric Jurado

Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France, Eric.Jurado@cnes.fr

Mr. Oliver Kuechemann

Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR), Germany, oliver.kuechemann@dlr.de

Ms. Valentina Lommatsch

DLR (German Aerospace Center), Germany, valentina.lommatsch@dlr.de

Mr. Michael Maibaum

Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR), Germany, michael.maibaum@dlr.de

Ms. Aurelie Moussi-Soffys

Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France, Aurelie.MoussiSoffys@cnes.fr

Mr. Mario Salatti

Italian Space Agency (ASI), Italy, assegnoricerca2.OSU@est.asi.it

ROSETTA LANDER, PHILAE, ON COMET 67P/CHURYUMOV-GERASIMENKO

Abstract

Rosetta is a Cornerstone Mission of the ESA Horizon 2000 programme. In August 2014 it reached comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko after a 10 year cruise. Both its nucleus and coma have been studied with its orbiter payload of eleven PI instruments, allowing the selection of a landing site for Philae. The landing on the comet nucleus successfully took place on November 12th 2014. Philae touched the comet surface seven hours after ejection from the orbiter. After several bounces it came to rest and continued to send scientific data to Earth. All ten instruments of its payload have been operated at least once. Due to the fact that the Lander could not be anchored, the originally planned first scientific sequence had to be modified. Philae went into hibernation on November 15th, after its batteries ran out of energy. Re-activation of the Lander is expected in spring/summer 2015 (before the conference) when CG is closer to the sun and the solar generator of Philae will provide more power. The presentation will give an overview of the activities of Philae on the comet, including a status report on the re-activation after hibernation. Rosetta is an ESA mission with contributions from its member states and NASA. Rosetta's Philae lander is provided by a consortium led by DLR, MPS, CNES and ASI with additional contributions

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