

Rosetta mission to comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko

M. Taylor¹, N. Altobelli¹, C. Alexander², F. Jansen¹, M. Kueppers¹, G. Schwehm¹, M. Barthelemy¹, B. Geiger¹, R. Moissl¹, C. Vallat¹, B. Grieger¹, A. Schmidt¹, A. Accomazzo¹, and S. Lodiot¹

¹ESA

²JPL

The Rosetta Mission is the third cornerstone mission (after XMM and Cluster/SOHO) of the ESA programme Horizon 2000. The aim of the mission is to map the comet 67-P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko by remote sensing, as well as to examine its environment in situ and its evolution in the inner solar system. The lander Philae will be the first device to land on a comet and perform in-situ science on the surface. Launched in March 2004 and after a number of gravity assists and various asteroid fly-bys, the spacecraft entered deep space hibernation in June 2011. Nearly 10 years after launch on 20 January 2014 at 10:00 UTC the spacecraft woke up from hibernation to get ready for the comet rendezvous. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the mission up to date and provide an insight into the exciting years we have ahead of us as Rosetta reaches and studies its target.