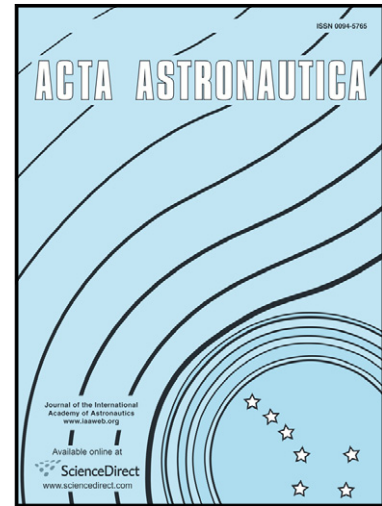


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Rosetta lander – Philae: Landing preparations

Stephan Ulamec, Jens Biele, Alejandro Blazquez, Barbara Cozzoni, Cedric Delmas, Cinzia Fantinati, Philippe Gaudon, Koen Geurts, Eric Jurado, Oliver Küchemann, Valentina Lommatsch, Michael Maibaum, Lars Witte, Holger Sierks



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ROSETTA LANDER – PHILAE: LANDING PREPARATIONS

Stephan Ulamec

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

Jens Biele

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

Alejandro Blazquez

Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France, alejandro.blazquez@cnes.fr

Barbara Cozzoni

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

Cedric Delmas

Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France, cedric.delmas@cnes.fr

Cinzia Fantinati

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

Philippe Gaudon

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

Koen Geurts

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

Eric Jurado

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

Oliver Kuechemann

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

Valentina Lommatsch

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

Michael Maibaum

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

Lars Witte

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

Holger Sierks

Max Planck Inst. für Sonnensystemforschung (MPS), Germany, sierks@mps.mpg.de

Rosetta is a Cornerstone Mission of the ESA Horizon 2000 programme. After rendezvousing with comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko in August 2014 and a ten year cruise it started to study both its nucleus and coma with an orbiting spacecraft. The Lander, Philae, will land on November 12th and perform in-situ studies of the cometary material with a payload consisting of ten scientific instruments.

Rosetta and Philae have been in hibernation until January 20, 2014. After the successful wakeup they underwent a post hibernation commissioning. The orbiter instruments (like e.g. the OSIRIS cameras, VIRTIS, MIRO, Alice and ROSINA) characterized the target comet and its environment to allow landing site selection and the definition of a separation, descent and landing (SDL) strategy for the Lander.

By September 2014 our previously poor knowledge of the characteristics of the nucleus of the comet has increased drastically and the nominal and backup landing could be selected. The nominal site, as well as the

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