



FFG

The OWL Mission

Origin of Water and Life

TEAM RED





COM_(ET)ING HOME

Mission Statement

Science
Case

Payload
Concept

Mission
Profile &
S/C

Project
Envelope



Science
Case

Payload
Concept

Mission
Profile &
S/C

Project
Envelope

Why are we interested in small bodies?

- Remnants of the early Solar System
- Building blocks
- Shaped life on Earth
 - delivered water and organics to Earth
 - extinction events
- Resource Exploitation



www.inverse.com

Why choose a comet?



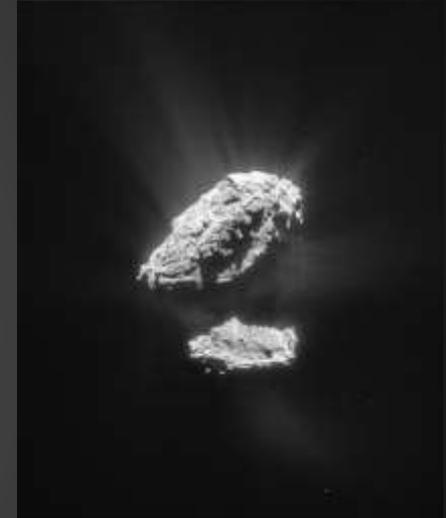
- COMETS ARE COOL !
- Primordial objects from the outer solar system
 - as old as 4.6 billion years
 - contain water ice and other volatiles
 - less violent history than asteroids
- More asteroid samples than comet samples



What we learned from previous comet missions

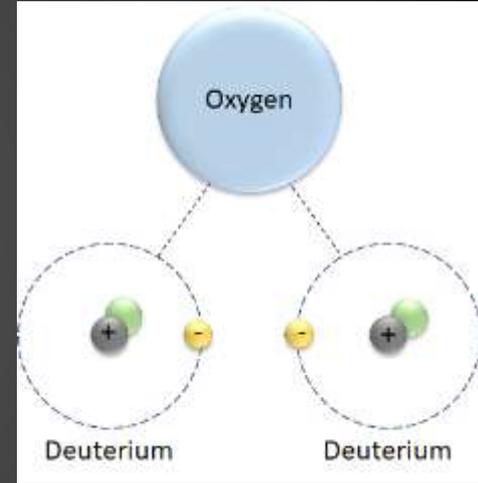
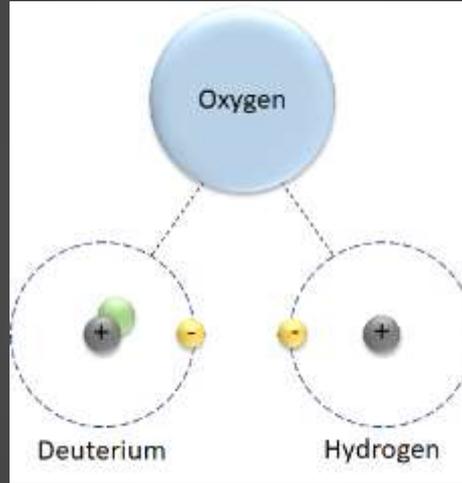
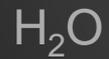
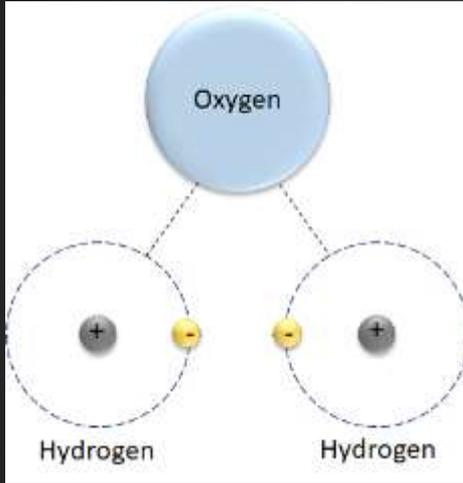


- High diversity of organic compounds
- Not “dirty snowballs” (dry and dark surface)
- Unexpected shape
- Gas drag is not completely predictable
- Wide range of D/H ratio for Jupiter Family Comets

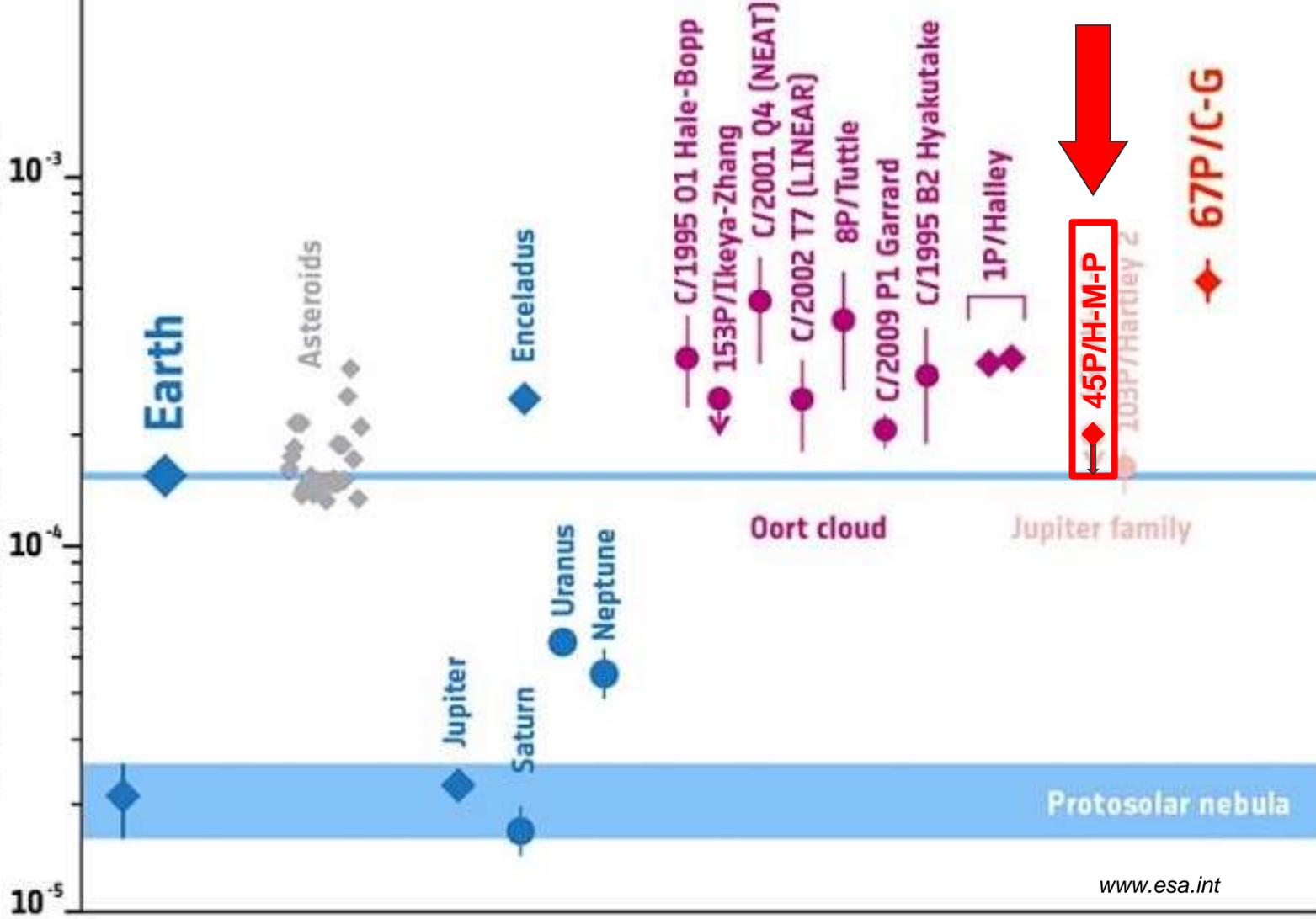


www.esa-int

What is heavy water?



Ratio of Deuterium to Hydrogen (D:H)

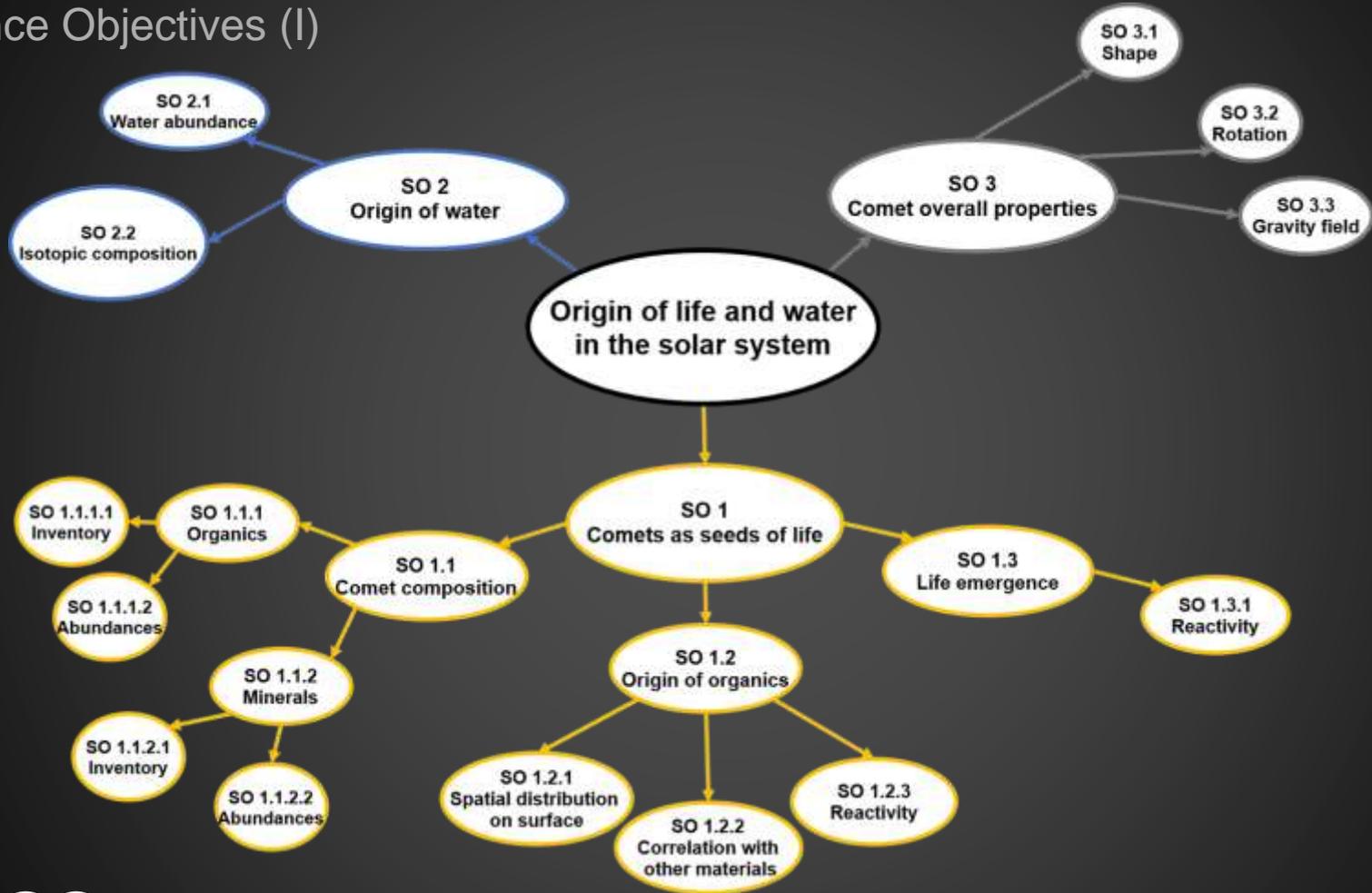


What questions are remaining?



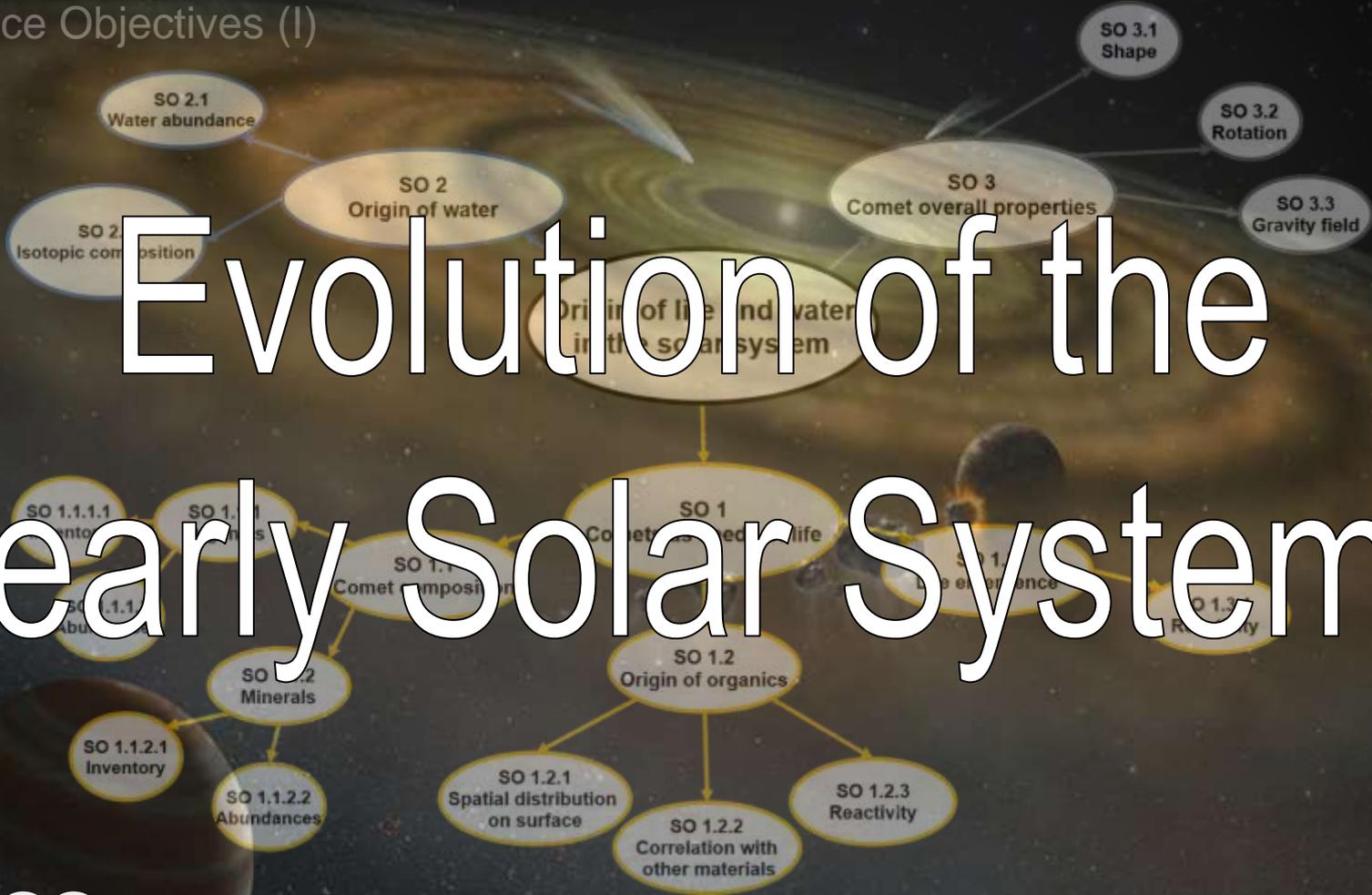
- Are dust agglomerates primitive pebbles?
- Does nucleus contain interstellar matter?
- Age of surface and subsurface material?
- Exact composition of complex organics?

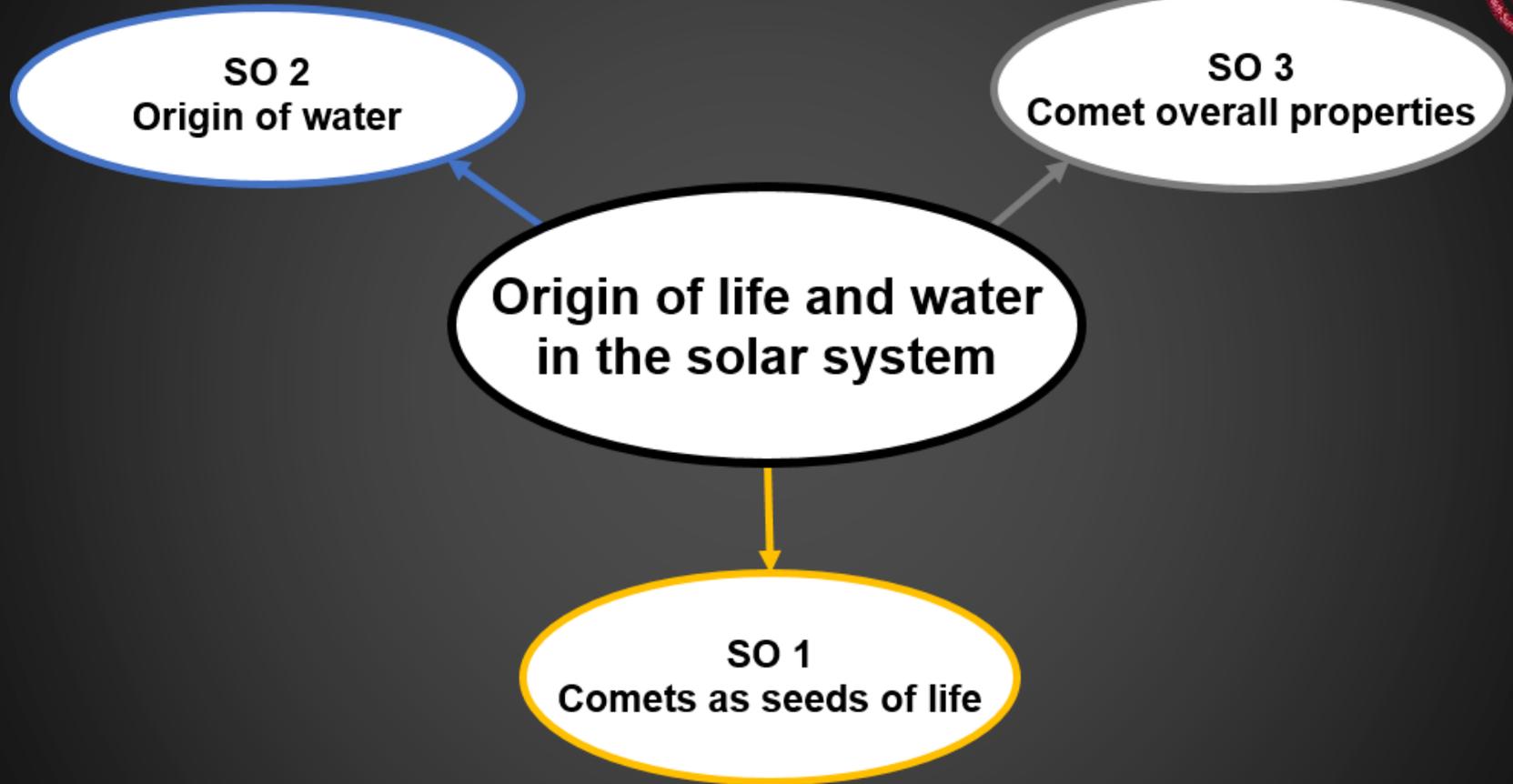
Science Objectives (I)

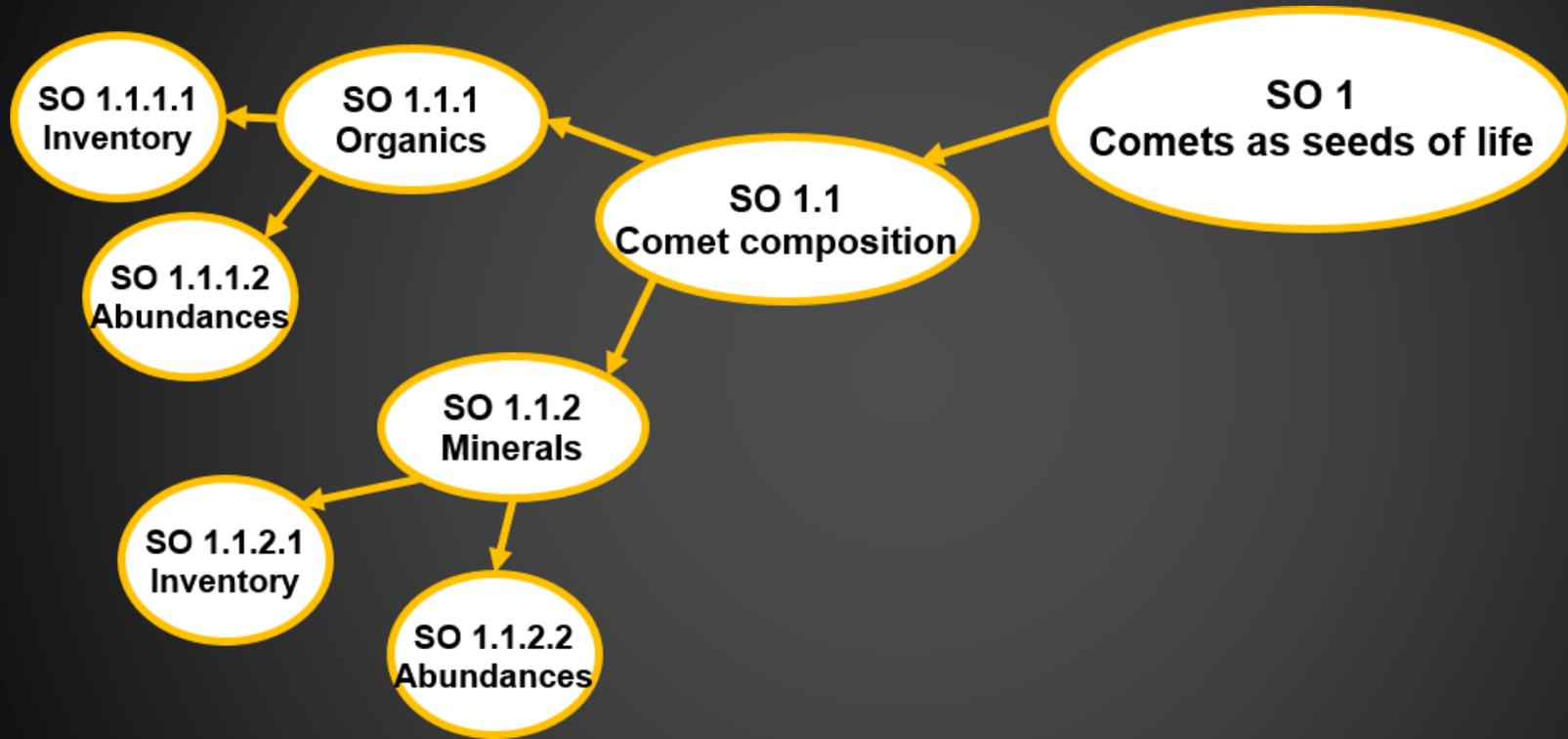


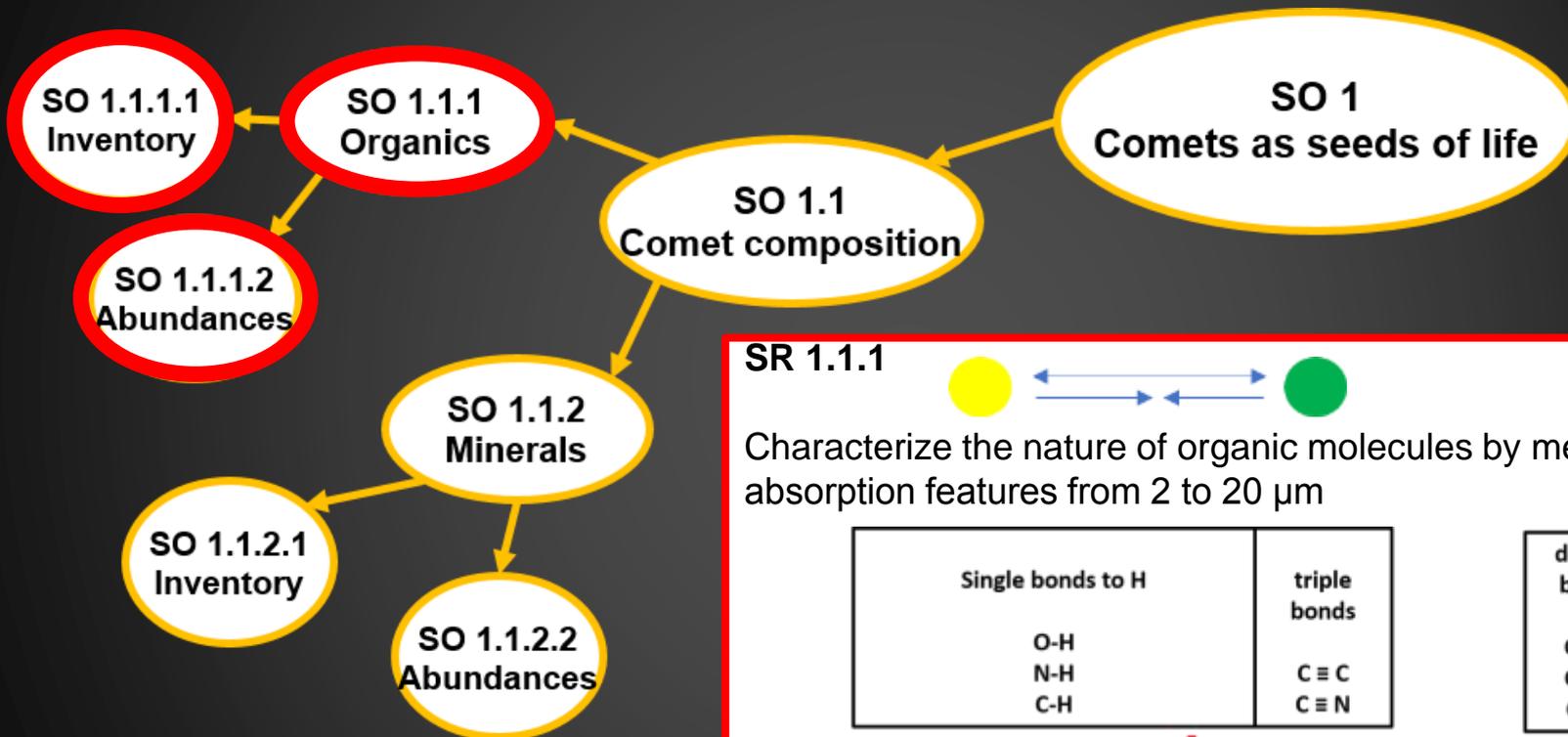


Evolution of the early Solar System





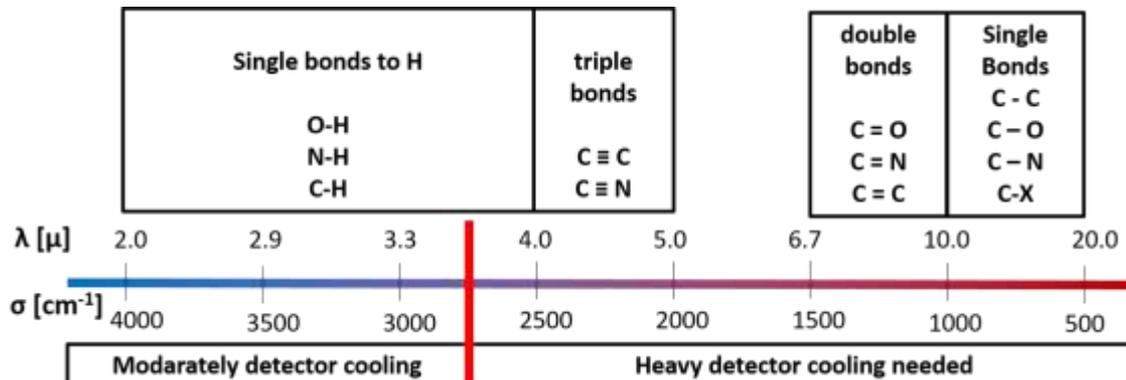


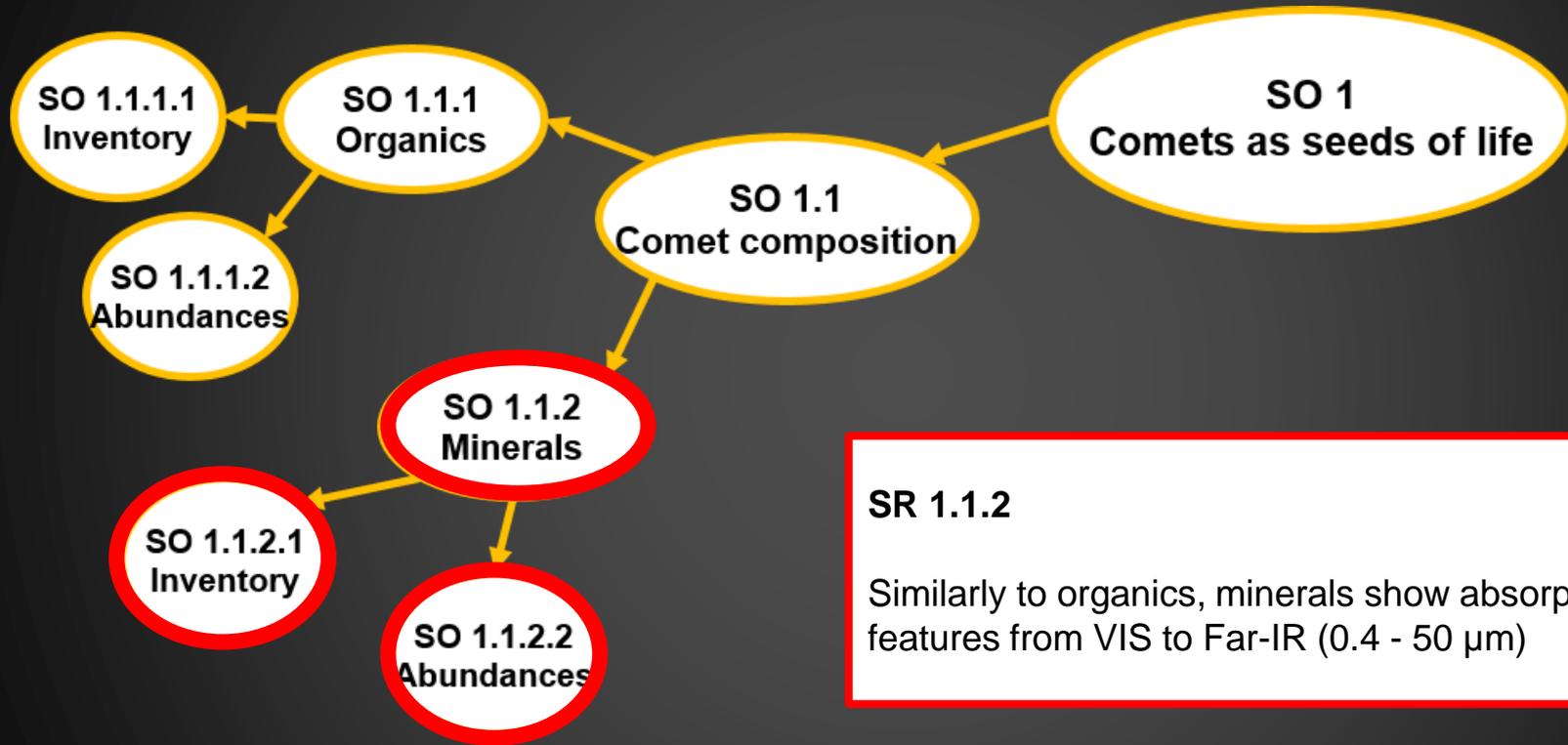


SR 1.1.1



Characterize the nature of organic molecules by measuring their IR absorption features from 2 to 20 μm

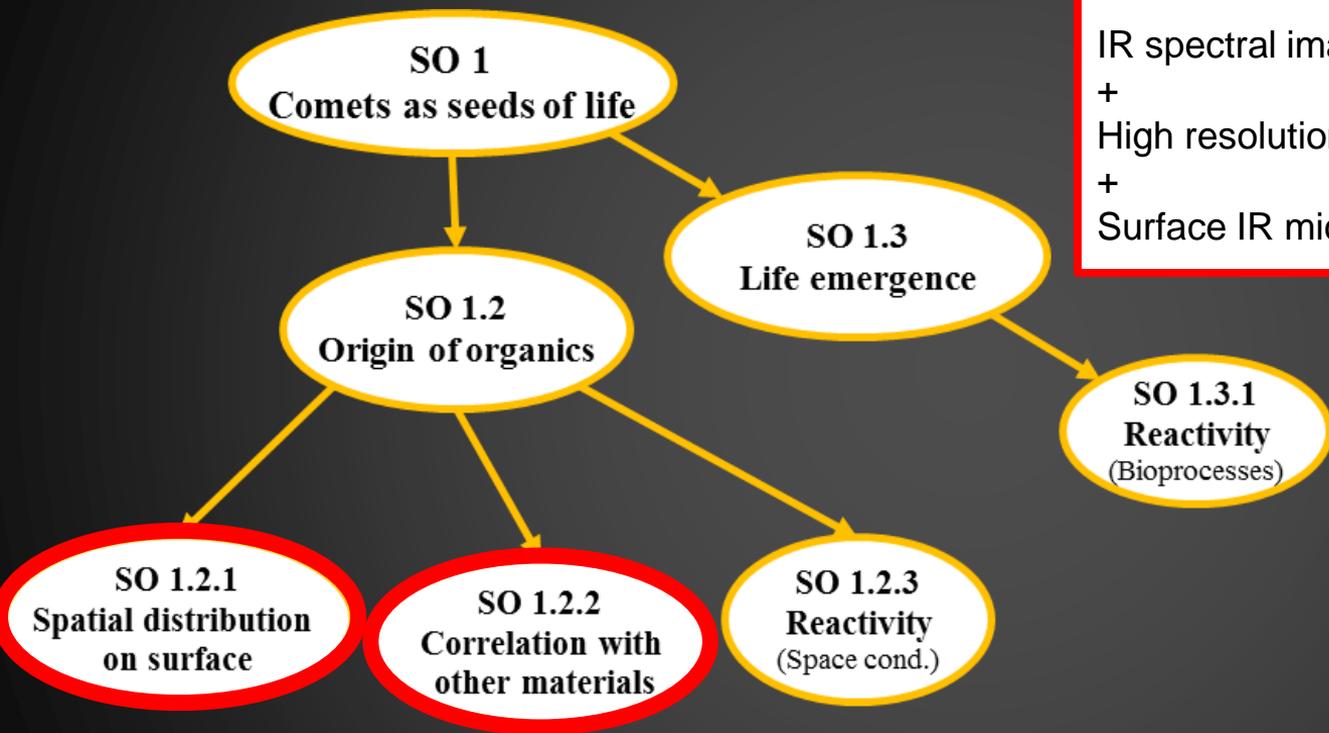




SR 1.1.2

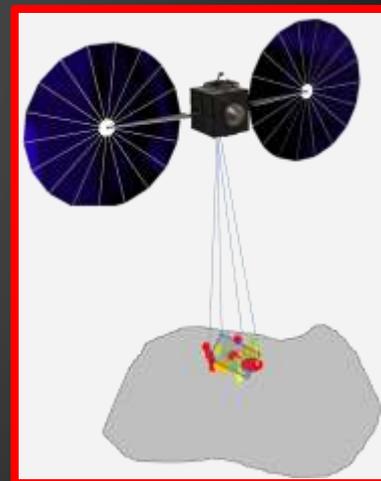
Similarly to organics, minerals show absorption features from VIS to Far-IR (0.4 - 50 μm)

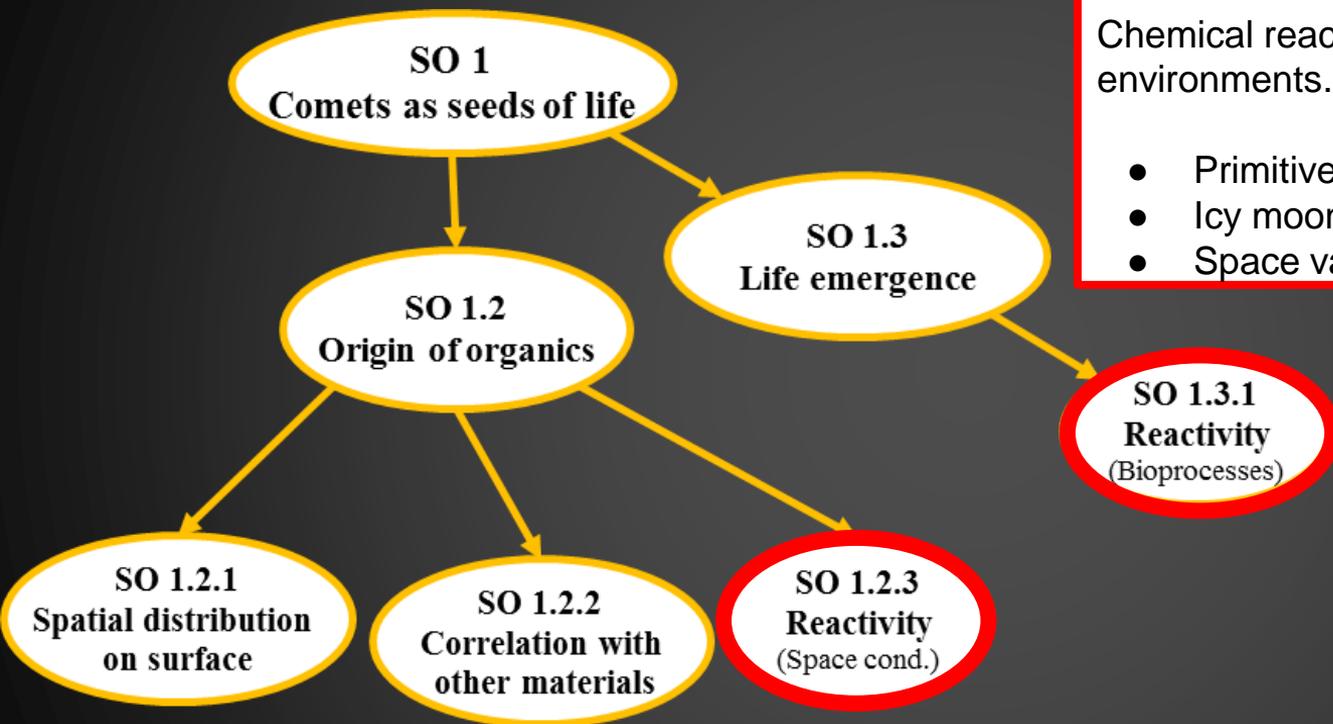
Science Objectives (IV)



SR 1.2.1 & 1.2.2

IR spectral imagery of the surface: 1 - 3.6 μm
+
High resolution imagery: 0.1 mrad
+
Surface IR microscopy: 1 - 3.6 μm , 20 μm resol





SR 1.2.3 & 1.3.1

Chemical reactivity tests in various environments.

- Primitive planetary ocean
- Icy moon
- Space vacuum



Tandem accelerator, IPN, Orsay

Science Objectives (VI)



SR 2.1

Target 1.4 μm (hydratation) and 2.6 μm (O-H) band in IR spectra

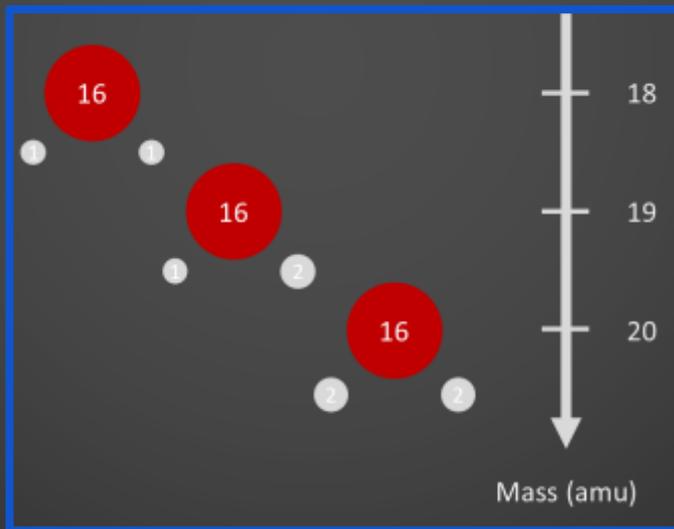
SR 2.2

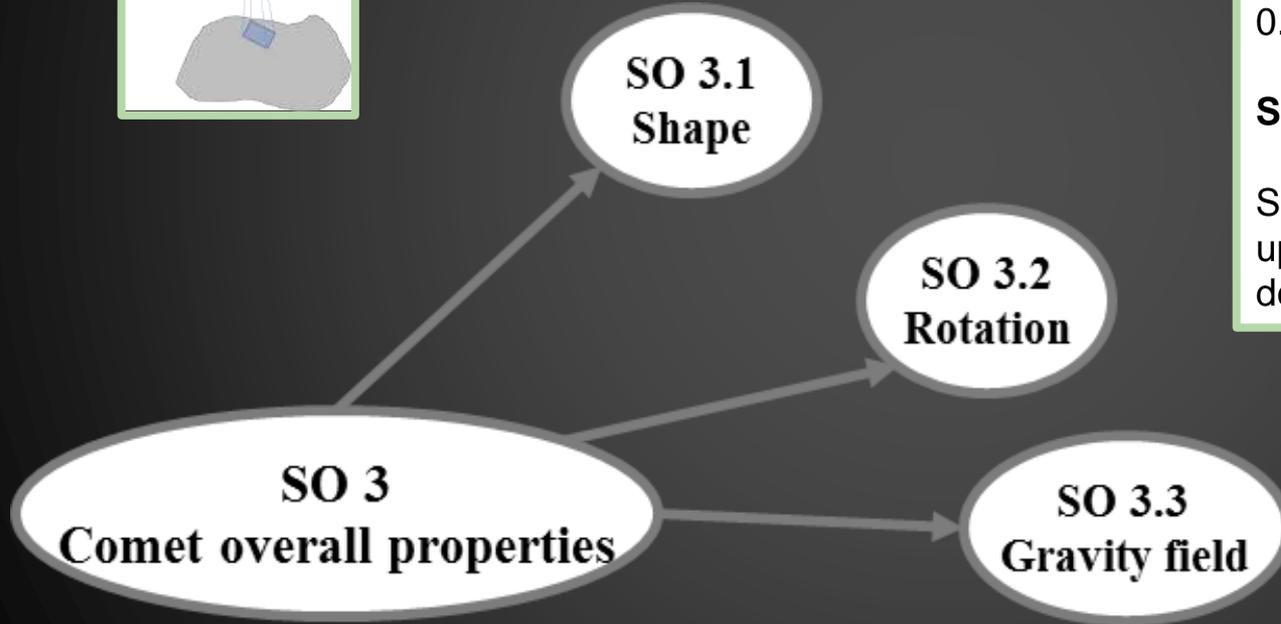
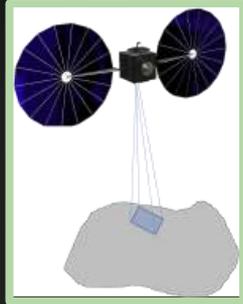
Mass spectra: H_2O , DHO , D_2O differentiation from 18 to 22 amu

SO 2.1
Water abundance

SO 2.2
Isotopic composition

SO 2
Origin of water





SR 3.1 & 3.2

High resolution imagery:
0.1 mrad global coverage

SR 3.3

Stokes coefficients' determination
up to and including order and
degree 2

Science Objectives (VIII)



SR 1.1.1



Characterize the nature of organic molecules by measuring their IR absorption features 2 - 20 μm



SR 1.1.2

Similarly to organics, minerals show absorption features from VIS to Far-IR (up to 50 μm)

SR 1.2.3 & 1.3.1

Chemical reactivity tests in various environments.

- Primitive planetary ocean
- Icy moon
- Space vacuum

SR 2.1

Target 1.4 μm (hydratation) and 2.6 μm (O-H) band in IR spectra

SR 2.2

Mass spectra: H_2O , DHO, D_2O differentiation from 18 to 22 amu

SR 3.1 & 3.2

High resolution imagery: 0.1 mrad global coverage

SR 3.3

Stokes coefficients' determination up to and including order and degree 2



SAMPLE RETURN !

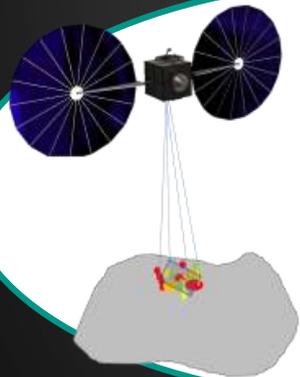


Mission Objectives

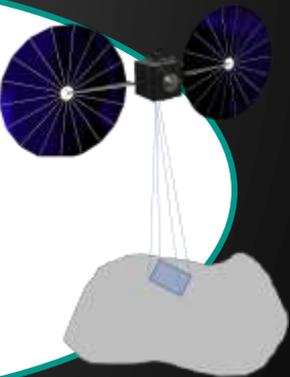


**Return
+ analyze sample**

→ **chemical composition**

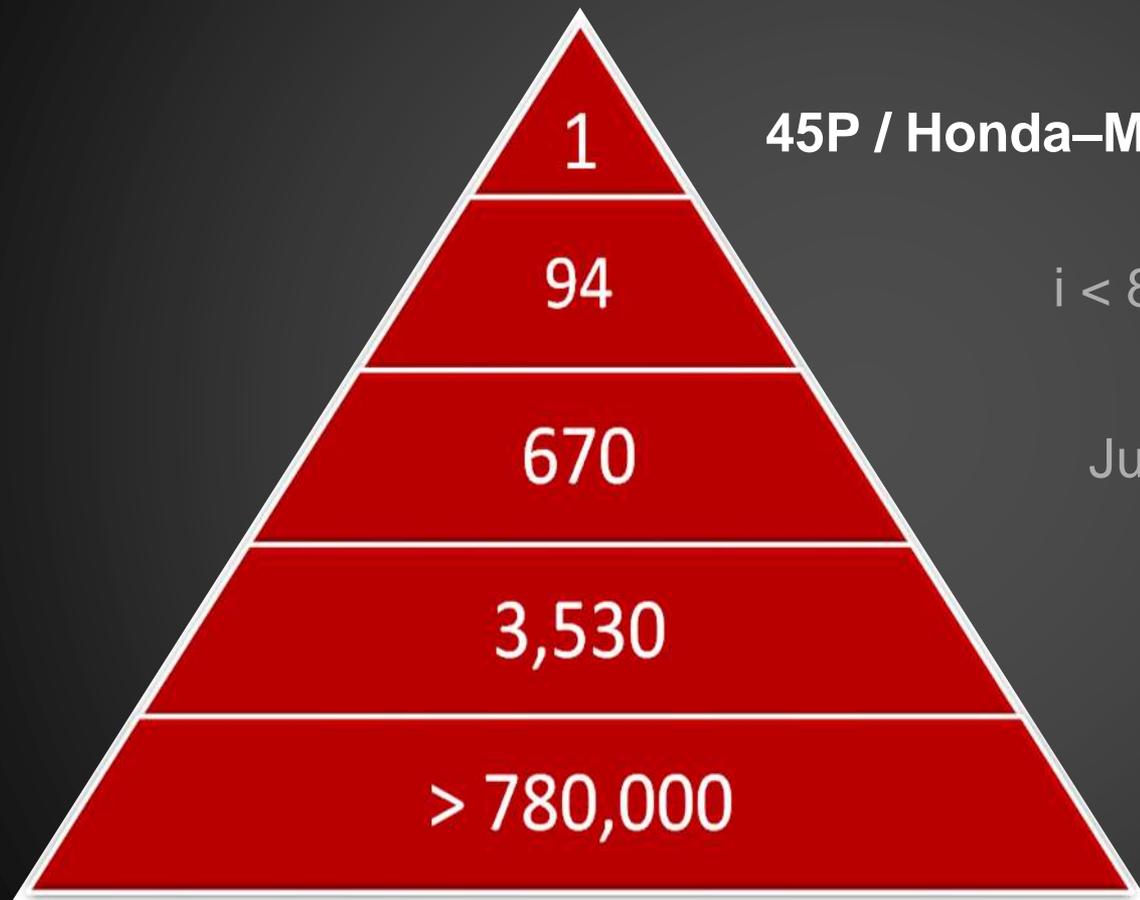
A silver bucket containing a molecular model of a complex organic structure, with an arrow pointing from the bucket to the text "chemical composition".

**Map organics
distribution on
surface**

A satellite with two large blue solar panels and a camera-like sensor, positioned above a grey, irregularly shaped surface. A small, colorful map is overlaid on the surface, representing the distribution of organics.

**Measure comet's
properties
(shape, density,
rotation, gravitation)**

A satellite with two large blue solar panels and a sensor, positioned above a grey, irregularly shaped surface. A small blue sensor is shown on the surface, representing the measurement of the comet's properties.



1 45P / Honda-Mrkos-Pajdušáková

$i < 8$ deg, period < 10 yr

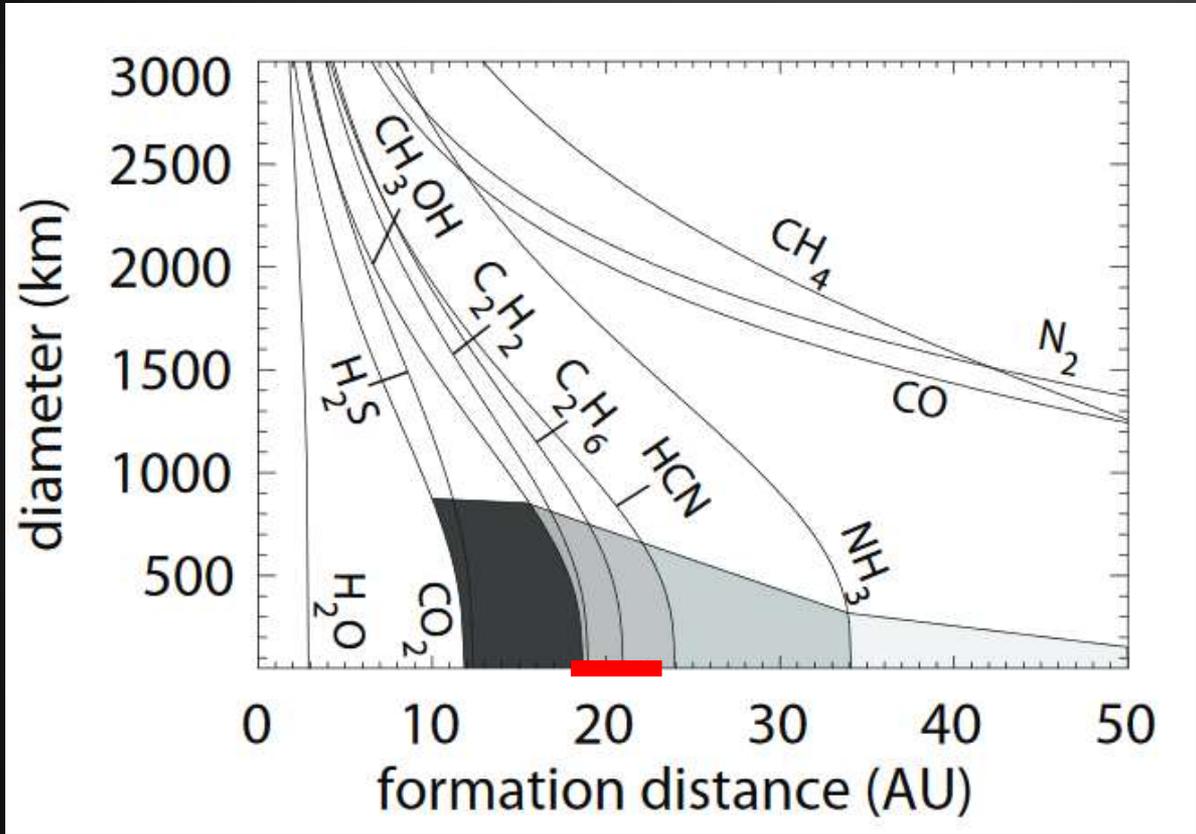
Jupiter Family Comets

Comets

Small Bodies



- Jupiter family comet (originate from Kuiper belt, influenced by Jupiter)
- Short orbital periods (< 20 years), low inclination and high eccentricity
- Two lobes and grains with a size of > 2 cm in the coma detected
- Composition:
 - strong depletion of CO (carbon monoxide) HCN (hydrogen cyanide) depletion
 - CH₃OH (methanol) enrichment
- Activity is expected to begin at Mars distance and peak at perihelion (lasting a year)



CO and HCN depletion
 CH_3OH detection

→ formation distance

18 - 23 AU

~ Uranus's orbit

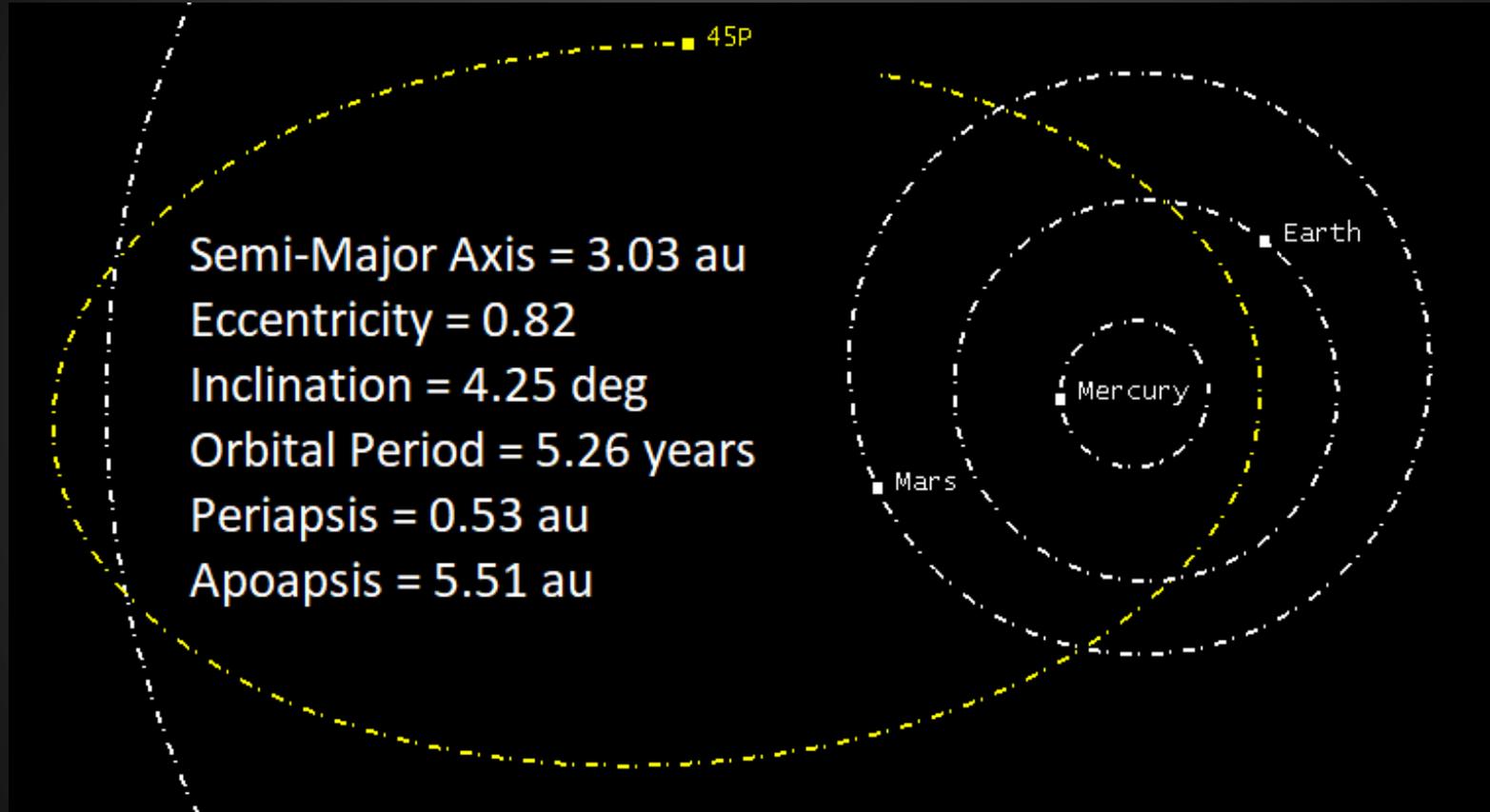


Arecibo radar observation of 45P



*VIS image of 45P 'the Green Comet'
(Gerald Rhemann, NASA)*

Target Orbit



Alternative Targets



15P/Finlay

Radius: 1.8 km
Abs. mag.: 15.1 mag
Mass: $1.5 \cdot 10^{12}$ kg
Orbital period: 6.51 yr



Damian Peach

137P/Shoemaker-Levy 2

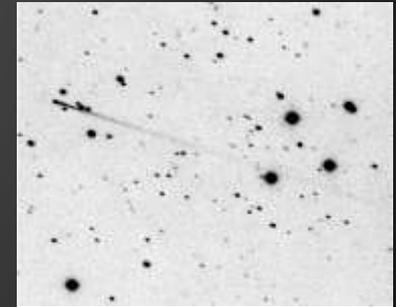
Radius: 2.9 km
Abs. mag.: 15.2 mag
Mass: $5 \cdot 10^{13}$ kg
Rot. period: 7.7 h
Orbital period: 9.56 yr



Kuma Kogen Astronomical Observatory

133P/Elst-Pizarro (MBO)

Radius: 1.6 km
Abs. mag.: 15.7 mag
Mass: $3 \cdot 10^{13}$ kg
Rot. period: 3.47 h
Orbital period: 5.63 yr



ESO



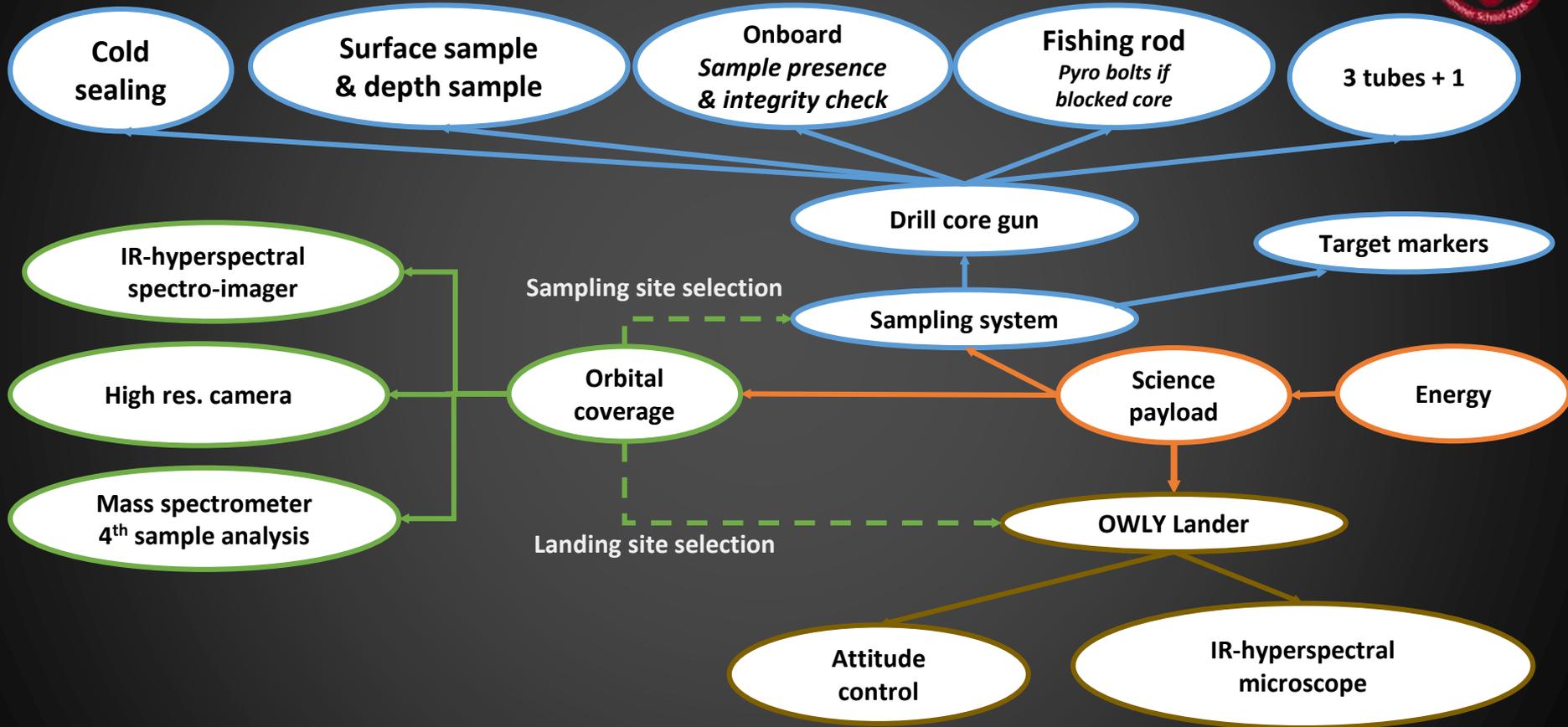
Science
Case

Payload
Concept

Mission
Profile &
S/C

Project
Envelope

Payload overview



Sample Requirements - Mass



- 3 samples of comet returned to Earth
 - + possible cooperation
 - + same amount kept for later use
 - + margin for destructive experiments
 - + 100 % margin
 - 18 g min. mass for earth based experiments

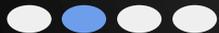
150 g

144 g

72 g

36 g

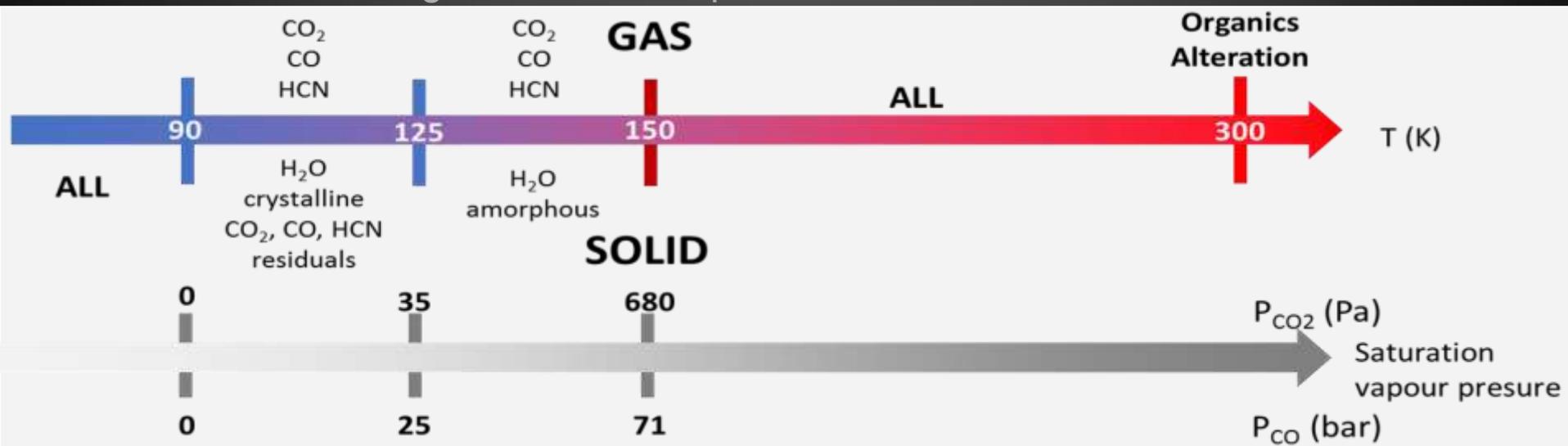
18 g

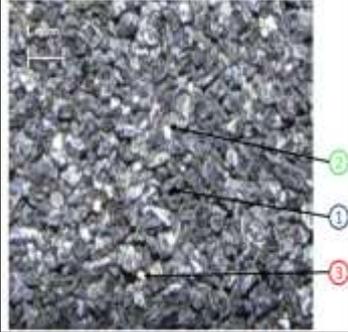
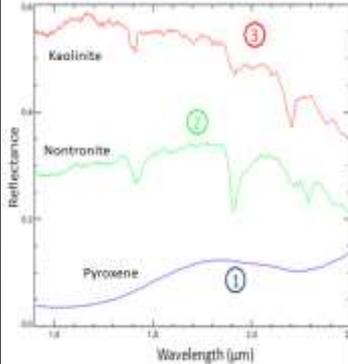




Sample Requirements - Condition

- Prevent sublimation of icy components (except CO which has presumably low abundance on 45P)
- The samples must be kept at a max. temperature of 120 K with tolerable, brief, peak of 140 K during Earth re-entry.
- Hermetic sealing, resist internal pressure of 3.5 Pa

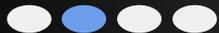


Instrument type	Observation method type		Specifications
IR hyperspectral imagery	Orbital mapping	 <p>MicOmega/Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale</p>	<p>Spatial res = 1 mrad Spectral range = 1 – 3.6 μm Spectral res = 2 nm @ 1 μm - 25 nm @ 3.6 μm</p>
	Microscopic imagery	 <p>MicOmega/Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale</p>	<p>Spatial res = 20x20 μm^2 Spectral range = 1 – 3.6 μm Spectral res = 2 nm @ 1 μm - 25 nm @ 3.6 μm</p>

Instruments Requirements (II)



Instrument type	Observation method		Specifications
High resolution imagery	Orbital mapping 2 FoV (narrow and wide)	 <p>ESA/Rosetta/MPS for OSIRIS Team MPS/UPD/LAM/IAA/SSO/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA</p>	Spatial res = 0.1 mrad (wide) Spatial res = 0.02 mrad (narrow) FOV = 0.2 rad Spectral range = visible
Mass spectrometry	Orbital characterisation	 <p>SAM / MSL / NASA</p>	Mass range 2 - 535 amu



Instruments Requirements (III)



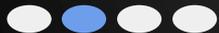
Instrument type	Purpose	Specifications
Sampling mechanism	Sample collection	100 mm surface penetration, pre-cooled to < 120 K, quick enough to keep the sample frozen
Sample Chamber	Sample transport to earth	Maintain temperature < 120 K (cruise) and < 140 K (brief peak during re-entry)



Instruments vs. Science Objectives



	Organics			Water		Comet props	
Payload	SO1.1	SO1.2	SO1.3	SO2.1	SO2.2	SO3.1	SO3.2
IR spectrometer (orbit)	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Grey	Light Blue	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey
IR microscope (lander)	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Grey	Light Blue	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey
High Resolution Camera	Dark Grey	Light Blue	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Light Blue	Light Blue
Mass spectrometer	Light Blue	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Light Blue	Dark Grey	Dark Grey
Earth based facilities (sample)	Light Blue	Dark Grey	Dark Grey				
Earth based facilities (obs.)	Dark Grey	Light Blue	Light Blue				





Science
Case

Payload
Concept

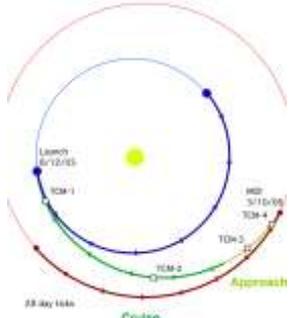
Mission
Profile &
S/C

Project
Envelope

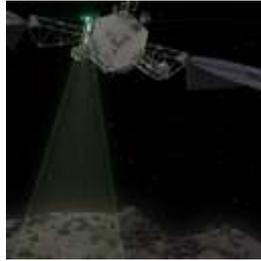
Mission Timeline



ESA



NASA



NASA



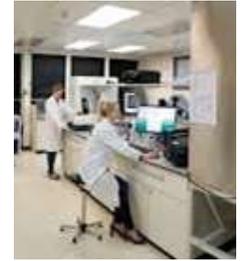
NASA



ESA



ESA



ESA

Launch

Outbound
Transfer

Observation
Period

Sample
Retrieval

Inbound
Transfer

Re-entry

Post
Analysis



Launch Facility, Provider and Launcher



- Guiana Space Centre in Kourou
- Operator: Arianespace
- Latitude of 5 deg
- Facility ELA-4 intended for **Ariane 64** (under construction)



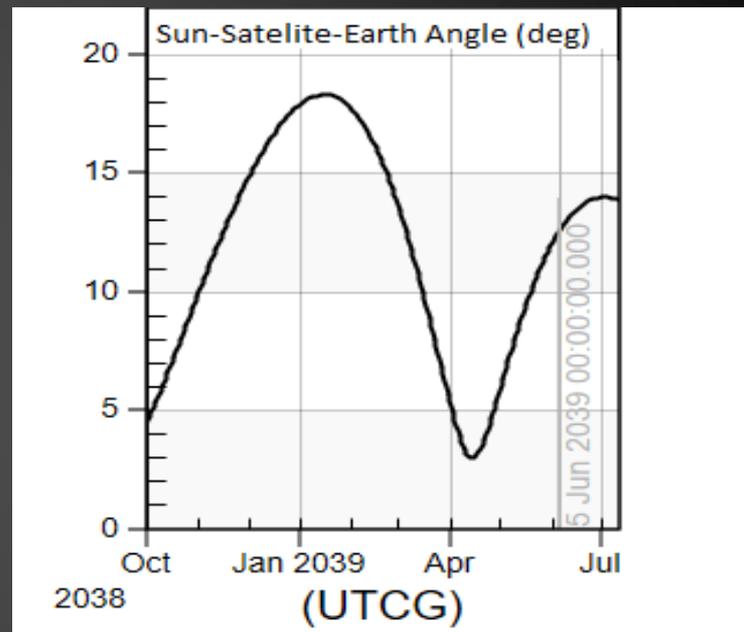
arianespace



System Drivers - Outbound



Launch Date	June 2032
Launcher Performance	5.3 t
Mission Manoeuvres	20 km/s
Gravity Assist	Mars
Propellant Mass	2.2 t
Travelling Time	6.57 yr



Sun-Satellite-Earth Angle
at arrival = 17.8 deg



Radiation Environment

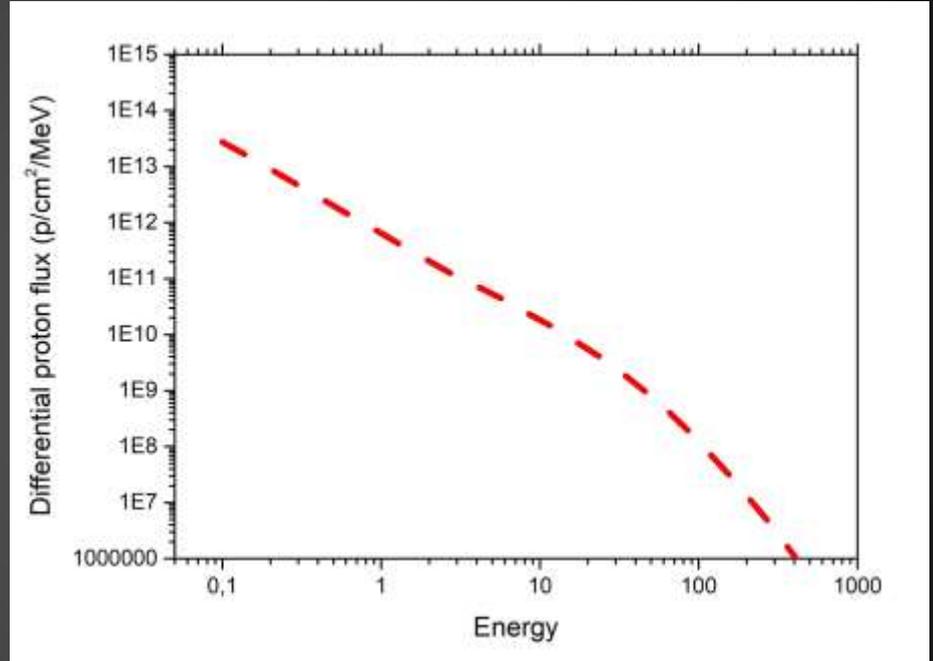
- **Solar protons**
- Galactic cosmic rays

Main concern:

- TID in insulators
- SEE in memories
- **DDD in camera, solar cells**

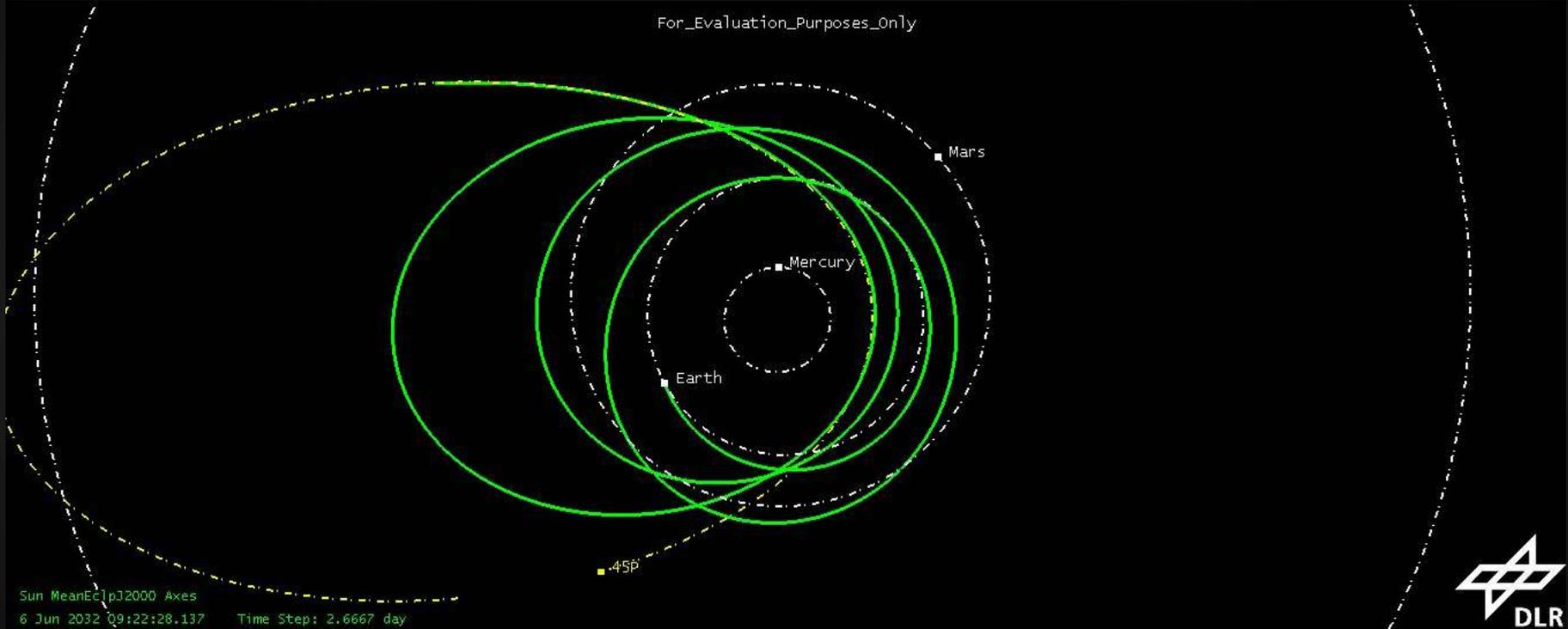


Wikipedia

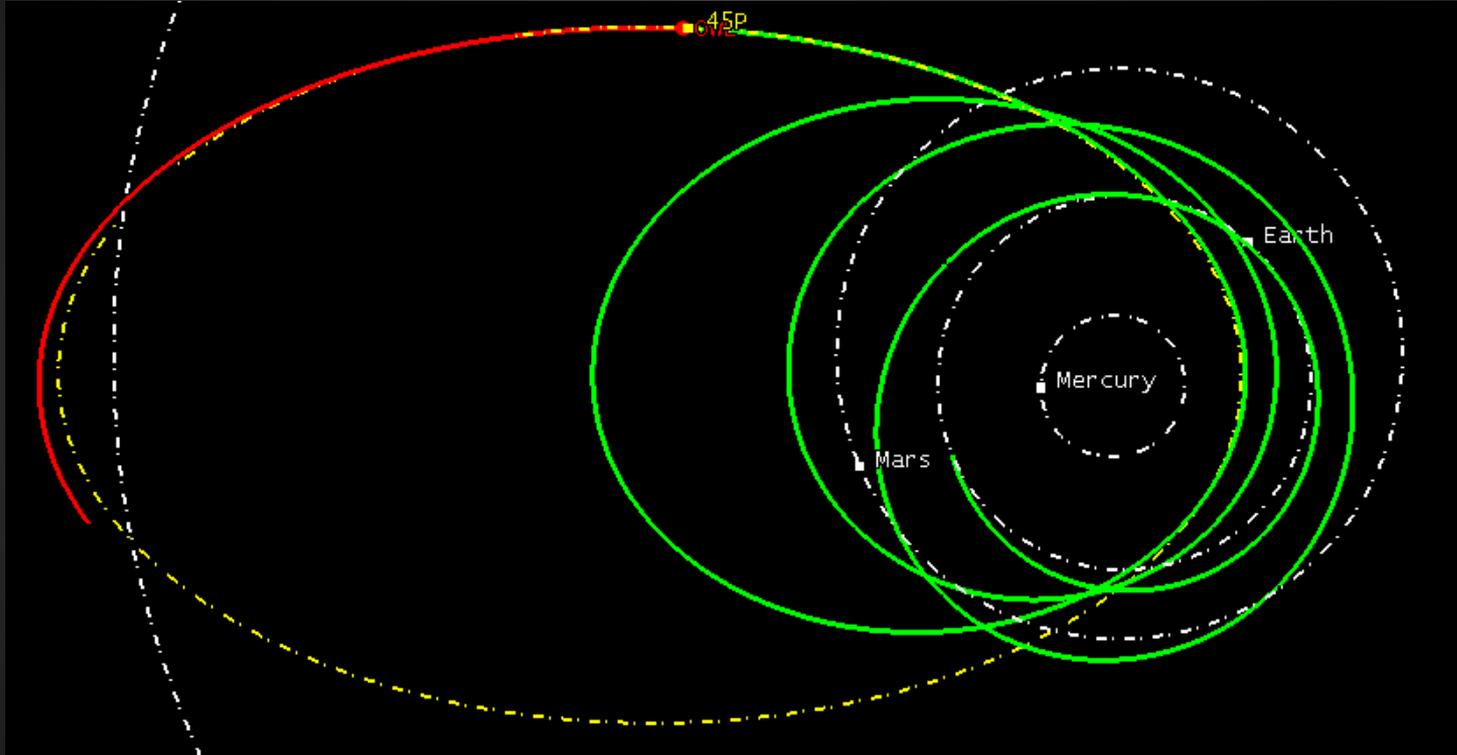


Solar proton flux during comet chasing manoeuvre
 DDD: 1e11 MeV/g (SPENVIS)

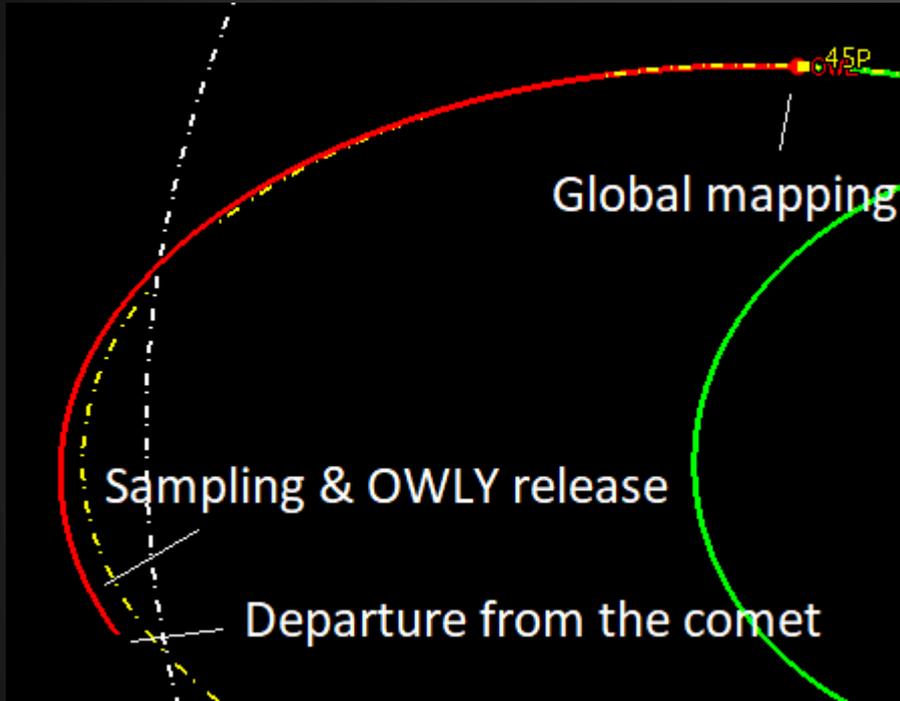
Transfer Outbound



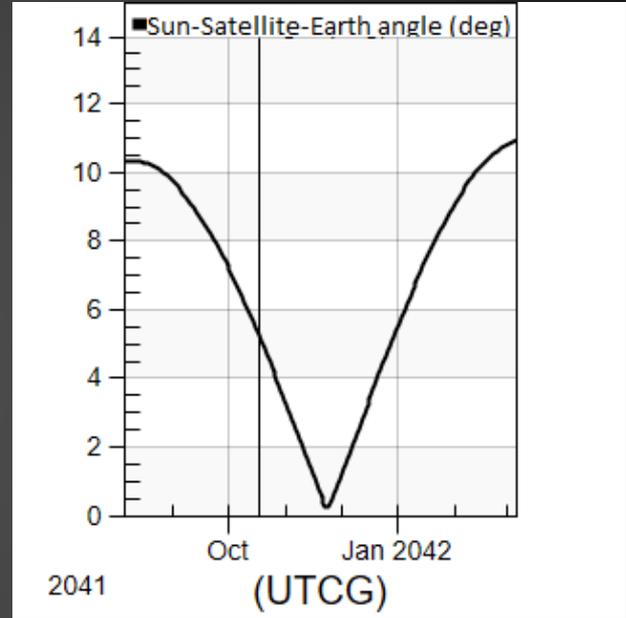
Target Operations (I)



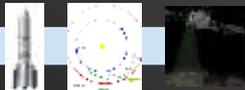
Target Operations (II)



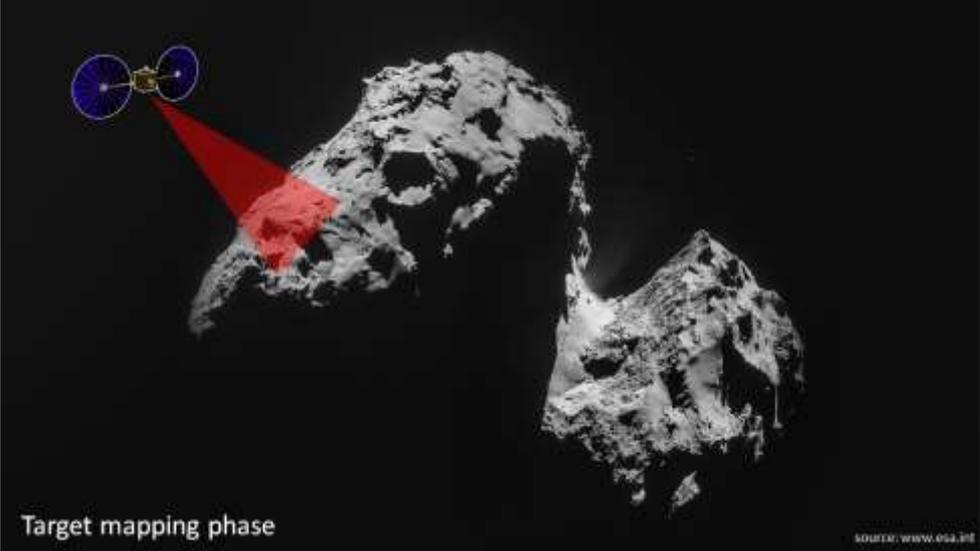
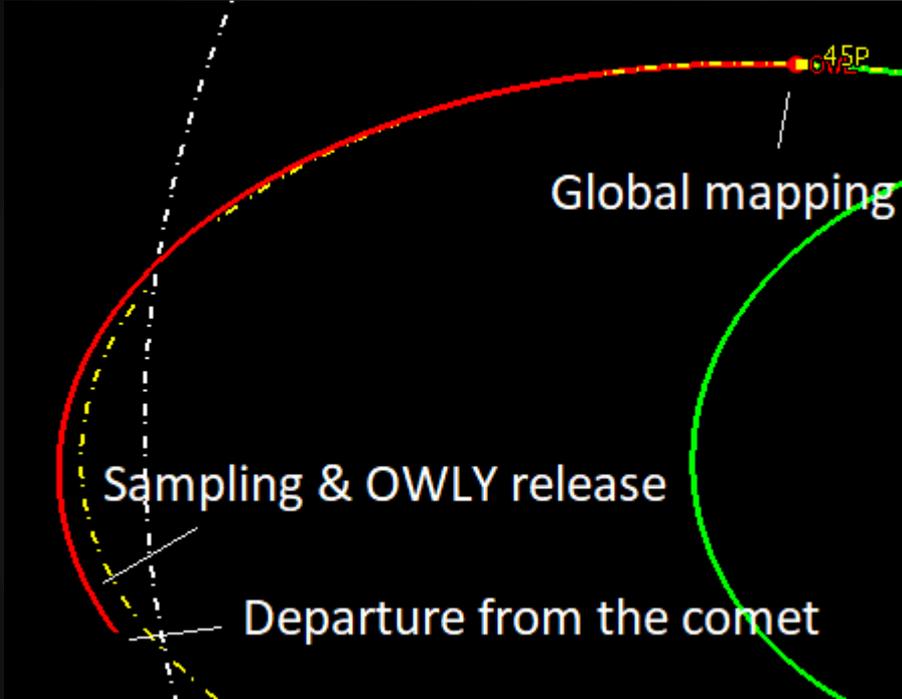
Time around the comet = 2.8 yr



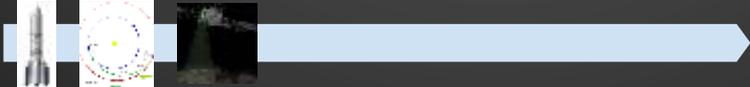
Sun-Satellite-Earth Angle at departure = 5.2 deg



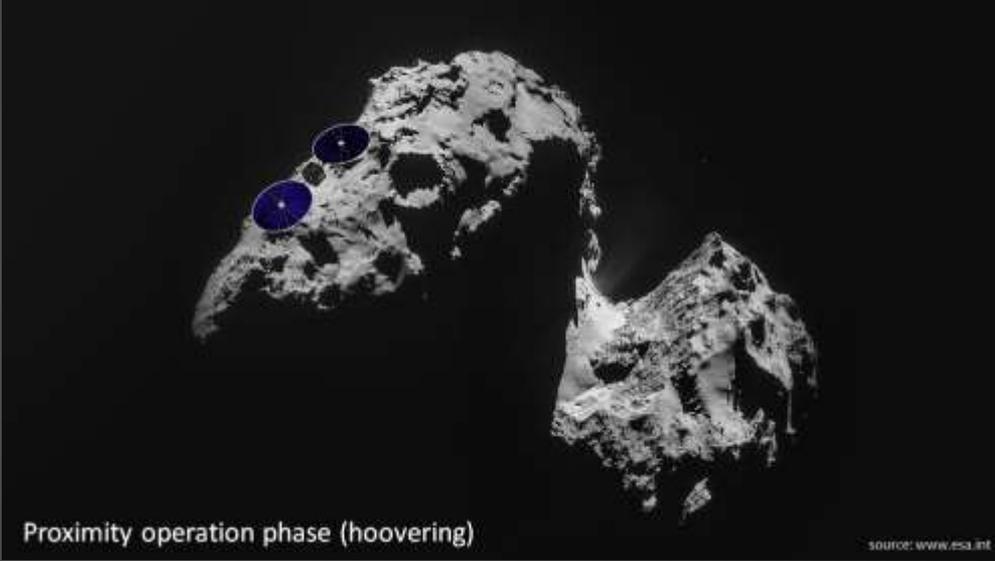
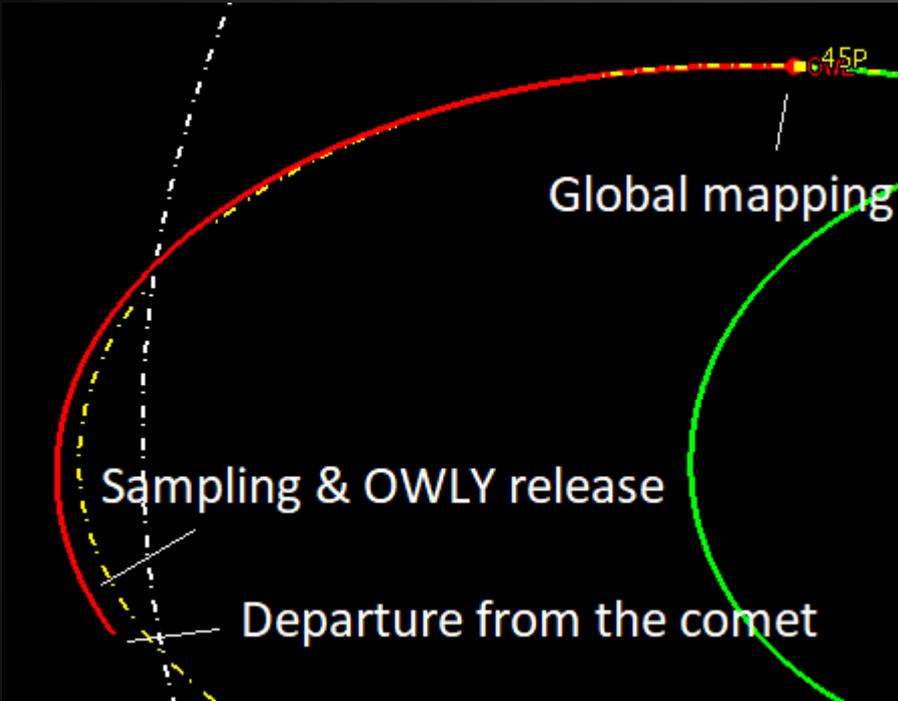
Target Operations (II)



Time around the comet = 2.8 yr



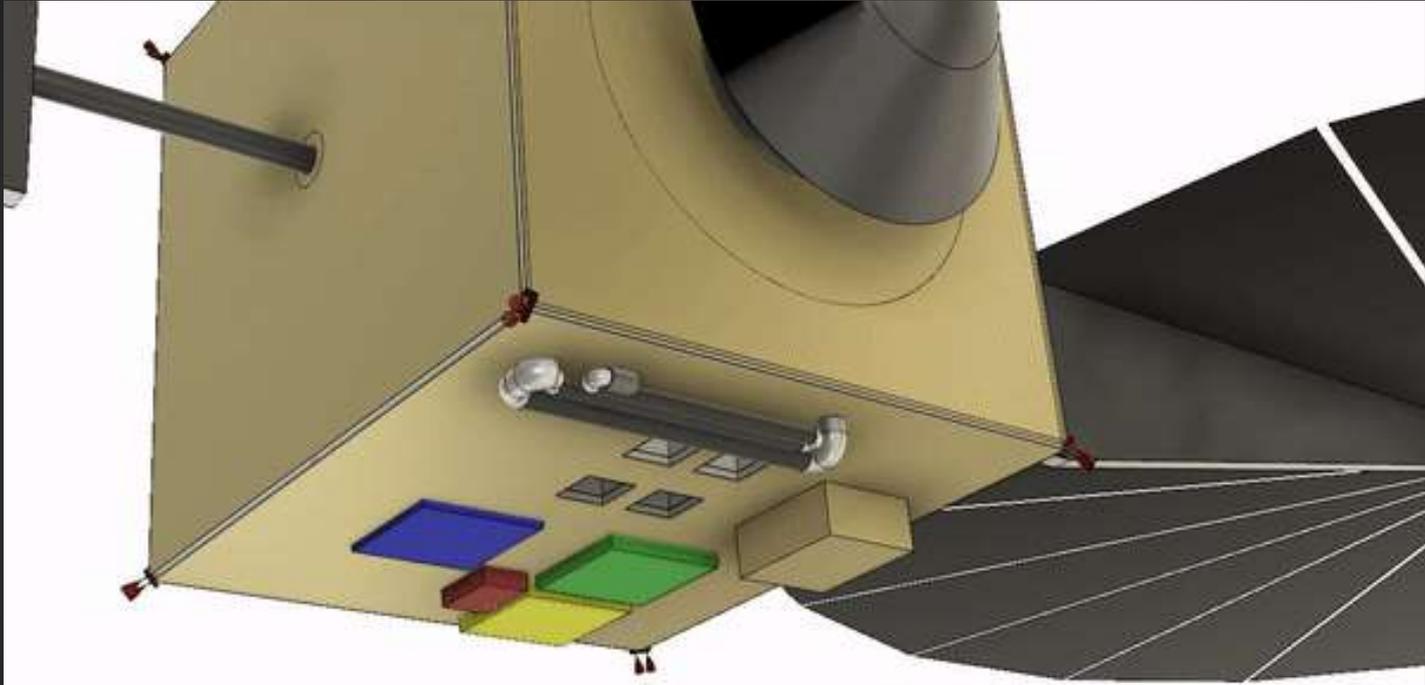
Target Operations (II)



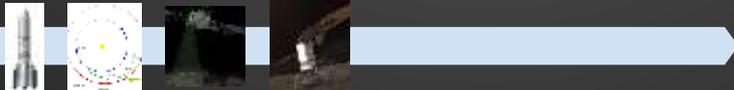
Time around the comet = 2.8 yr



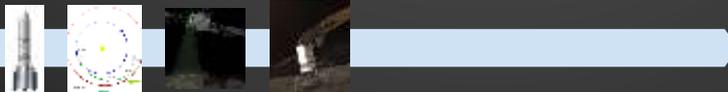
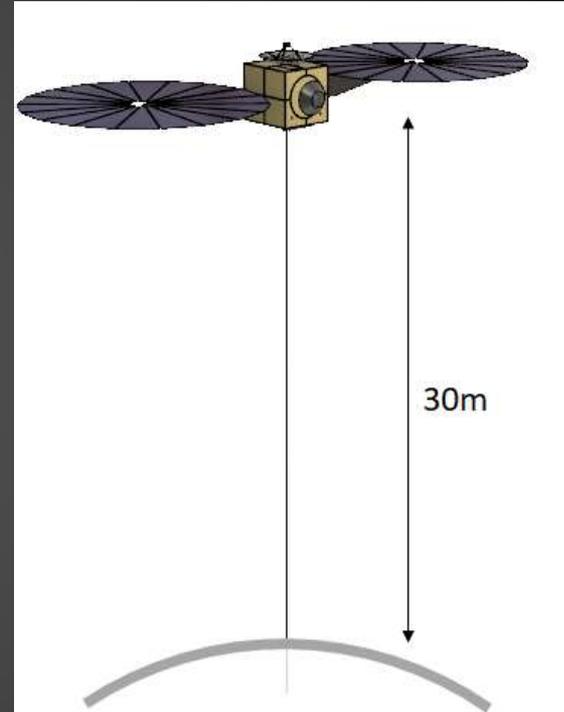
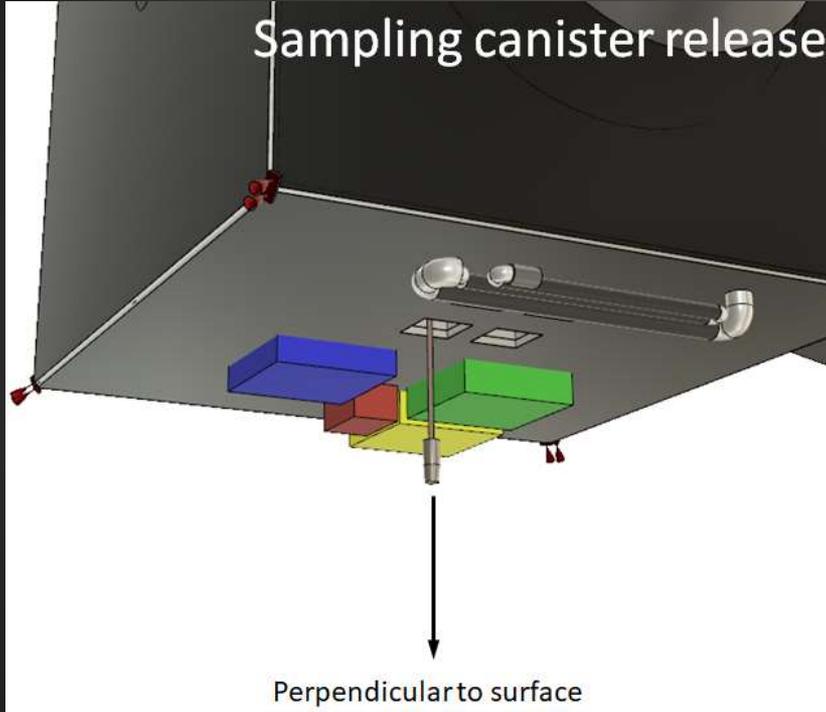
Lander Deployment



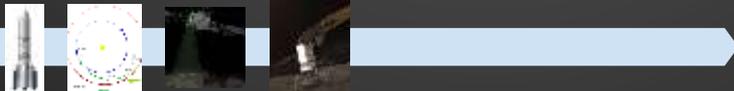
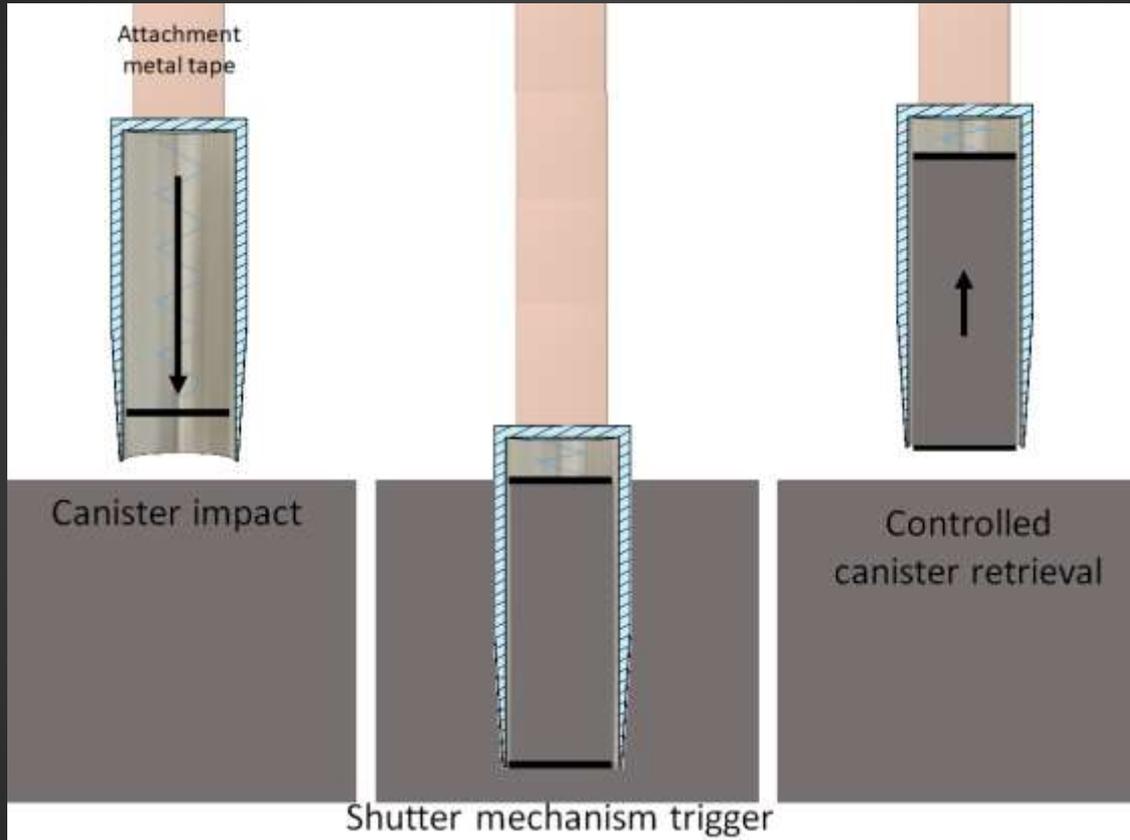
“OWLY” lander deployment



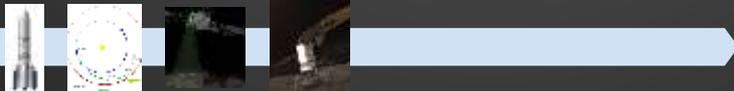
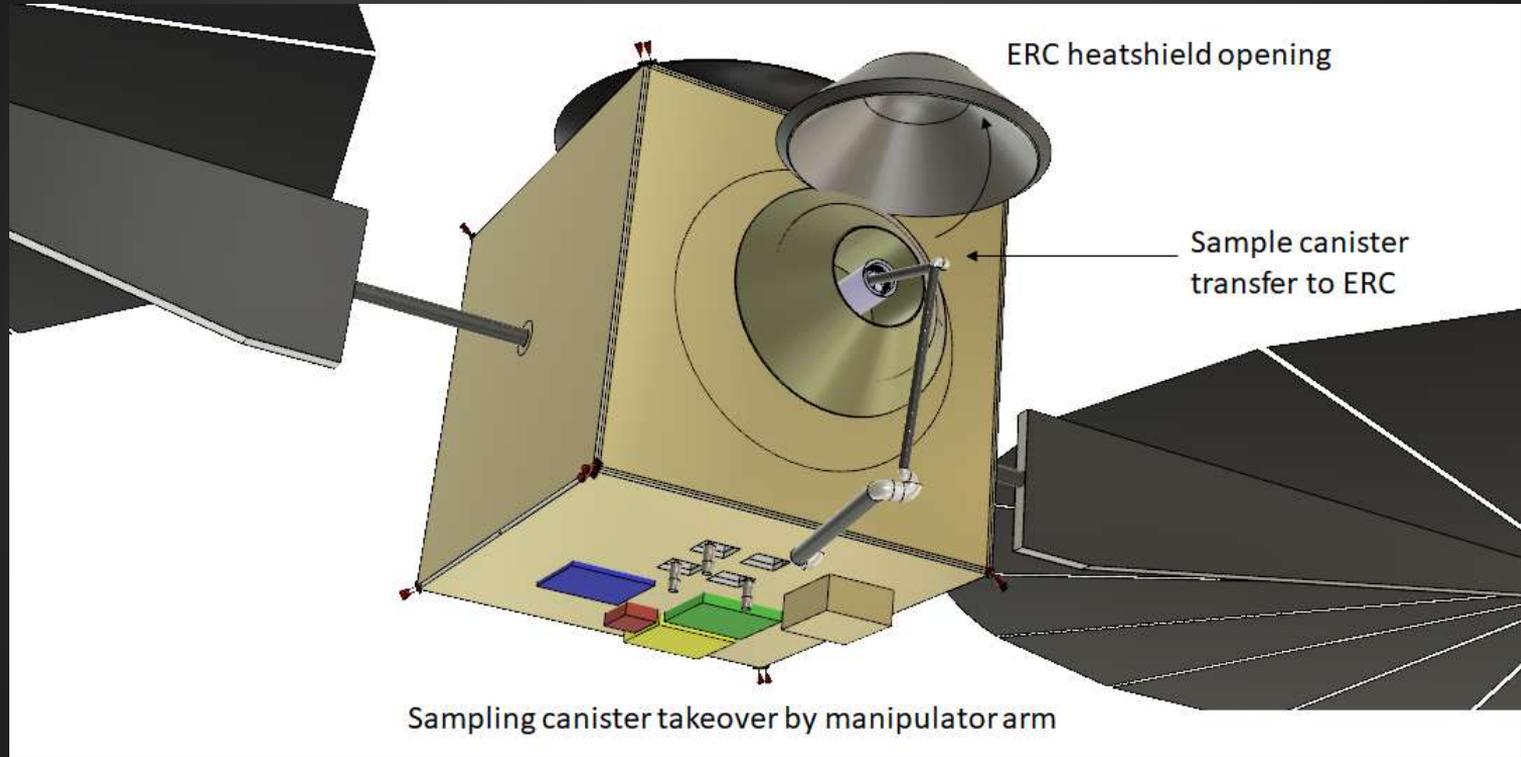
Sample Acquisition (I)



Sample Acquisition (II)



Sample acquisition (III)



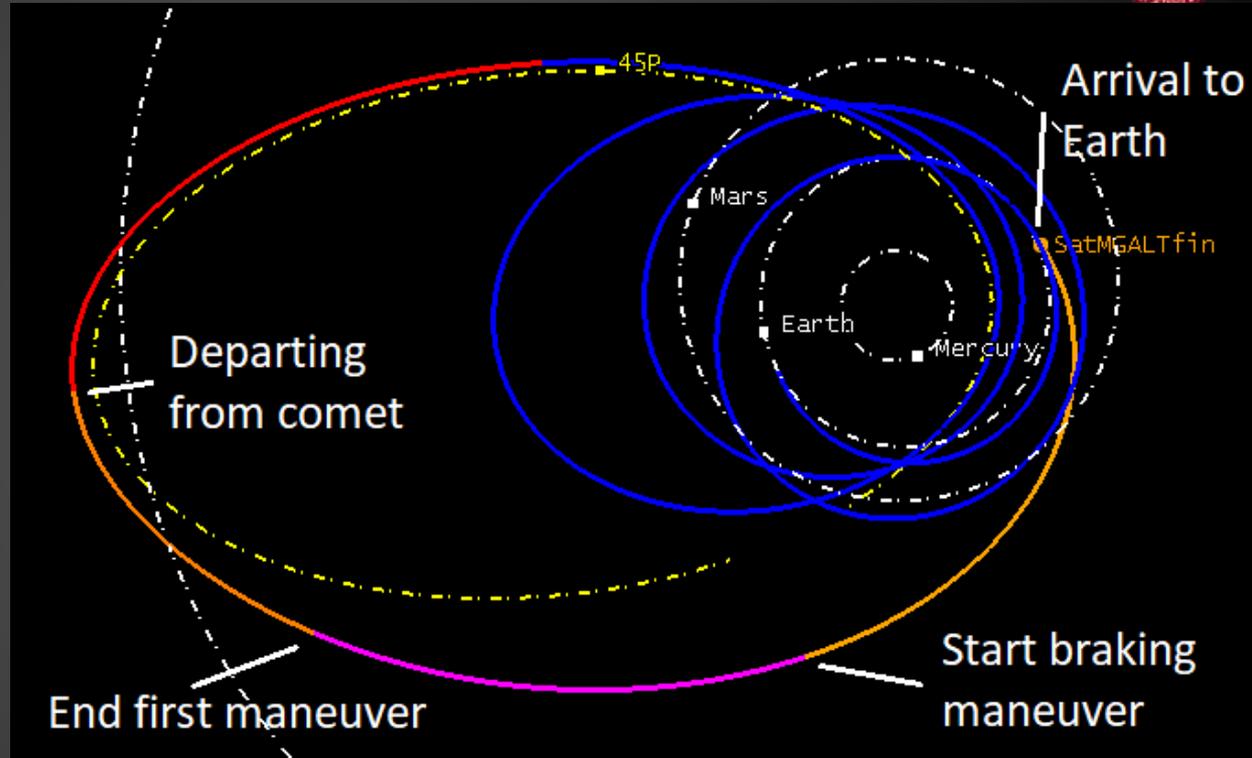
Transfer Inbound

Low thrust return trajectory

- 2.6 km/s & 190 kg
- 1.79 km/s & 138 kg

Separation of Earth Return Capsule

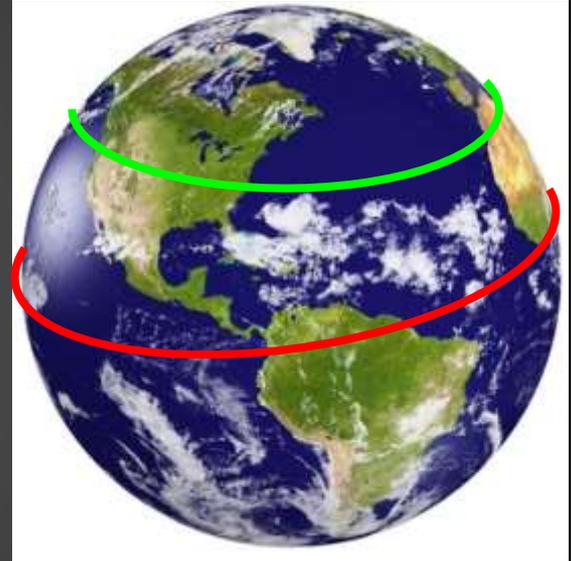
Earth re-entry: 13.15 km/s



Re-entering Earth's Atmosphere and Retrieval (I)



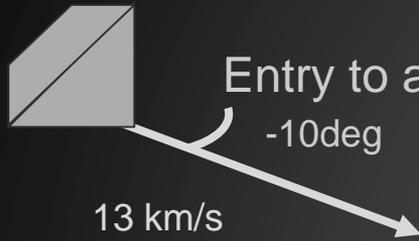
- In-air capture and transfer to lab
- **Baseline** re-entry landing location: Utah, USA
 - High heritage in Mid-Air Retrieval (1950s)
- **Backup** re-entry landing location: Woomera, Australia
- Entry at latitude of 19° , Utah is 39° , correction maneuver required



Planet Earth image via Shutterstock



Re-entering Earth's Atmosphere and Retrieval (II)



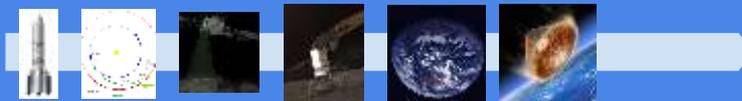
Entry to atmosphere at 120 km

-10deg

13 km/s

Max deceleration of 61 g
peak heat flux 14.8 MW/m²

Landing velocity of 41 m/s
Drogue chute released at
5 - 10km





NASA/JPL. Artist interpretation of Genesis intended mid air retrieval

Mid Air Retrieval

- Required to keep the sample cool
- Sample cooling whilst transporting to curation facility
- Demonstrated previously many times and was intended for Genesis which had a similar landing velocity

Curation Facility



Euro-Cares

“Triple zero” environment

- Zero particle
- Zero molecular
- Zero biologic



Genesis curation materials, NASA



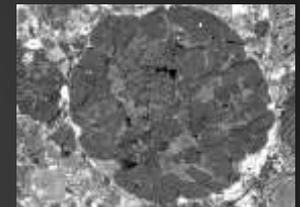
Sample Post Analysis - Measurements



Objective	Measurement
Atomic/molecular structure	X- ray diffraction
For high resolving power	Electron microscopy
Calculation of sample age	Radiometric dating
Compositional analysis	Optical microscopy
Tomography of sample	CT scanner
Sample composition	Mass spectroscopy
Prebiotic reaction	PALS Laser



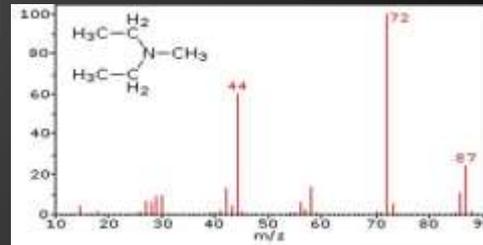
CrystalStudio



Steven Simon



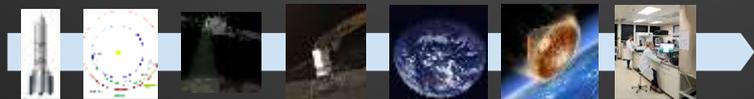
Florida State University



AssignmentPoint.com



pals.cas.cz





Space System



System Requirements



Requirement	Description
Earth Return Capsule & Biocontainer	The sample shall be kept at a temperature of $120\text{ K} \pm 20\text{ K}$ at all phases of the mission, post sampling.
Science Measurements	The AOCS/GNC subsystem shall provide a precision required to ensure instrument resolution.
Lander	Data obtained from OWLY shall be transmitted to Earth through a communications relay with the spacecraft orbiter.
Sampling & Transfer Mechanism	150 g of sample must be obtained from a depth of 10 cm and stored inside a Biocontainer to meet planetary protection requirements.





**OWLY
Lander**

**Spacecraft
Bus**

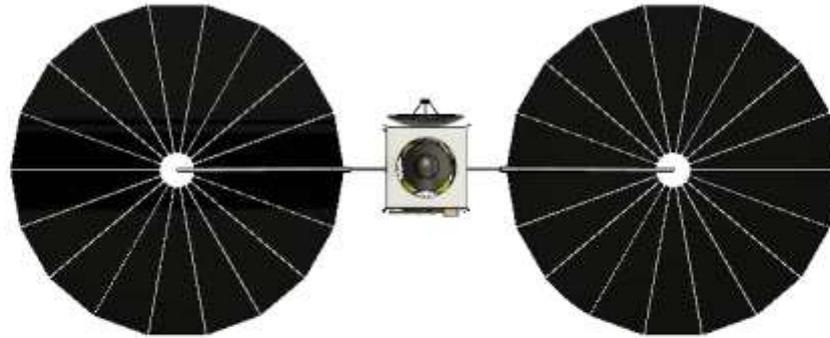
**Sampling &
Transfer
Mechanism**

**Payload
Instruments**

**Earth Return
Capsule**



Spacecraft Bus - Structure (I)



Spacecraft Bus - Structure (II)



CFRP/Alu sandwich panels



ESA, www.esa.int

Full CFRP struts



Space Structures GmbH



Spacecraft Bus - Structure (III)



OWL inside of ARIANE 6 single-launch-configuration fairing



Spacecraft Bus - Propulsion

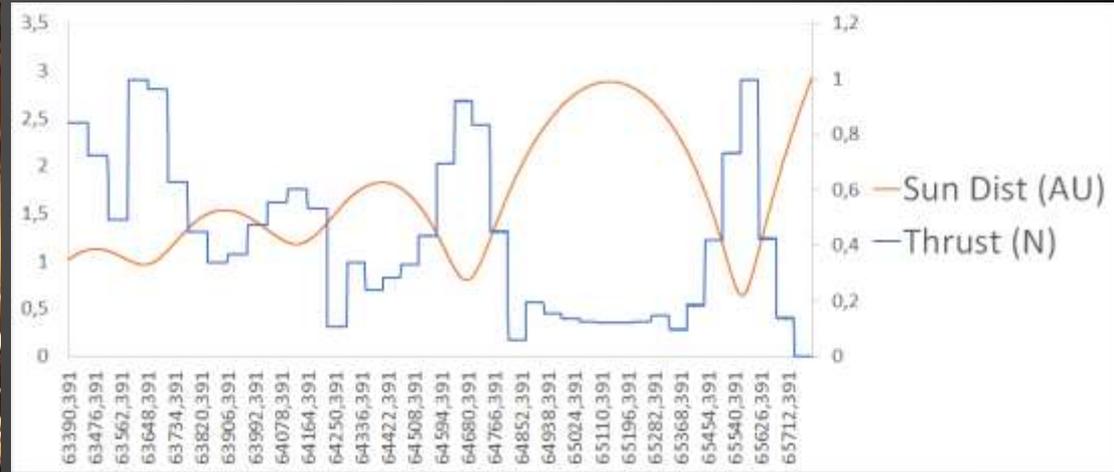
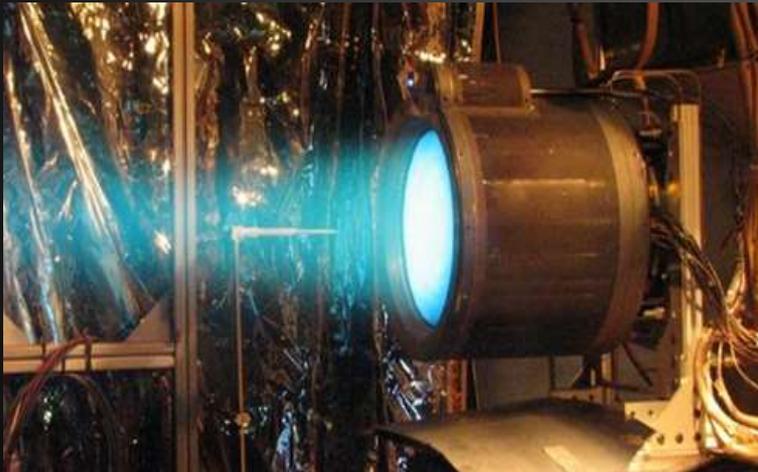


T6 ion engines:

- 7x Operational
- 1x Redundant
- Fuel Type: Xenon

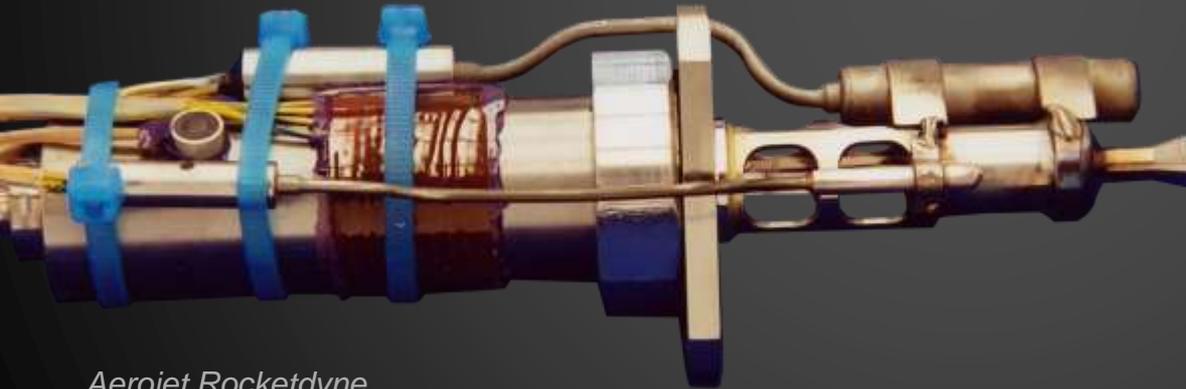
Other subsystem elements:

- Power Processing Unit (4x)
- High Pressure Regulator System
- Harnessing
- Propellant tanks (4x)



Aerojet MR 103-M engine:

- 12x Operational
- Fuel Type: Hydrazine



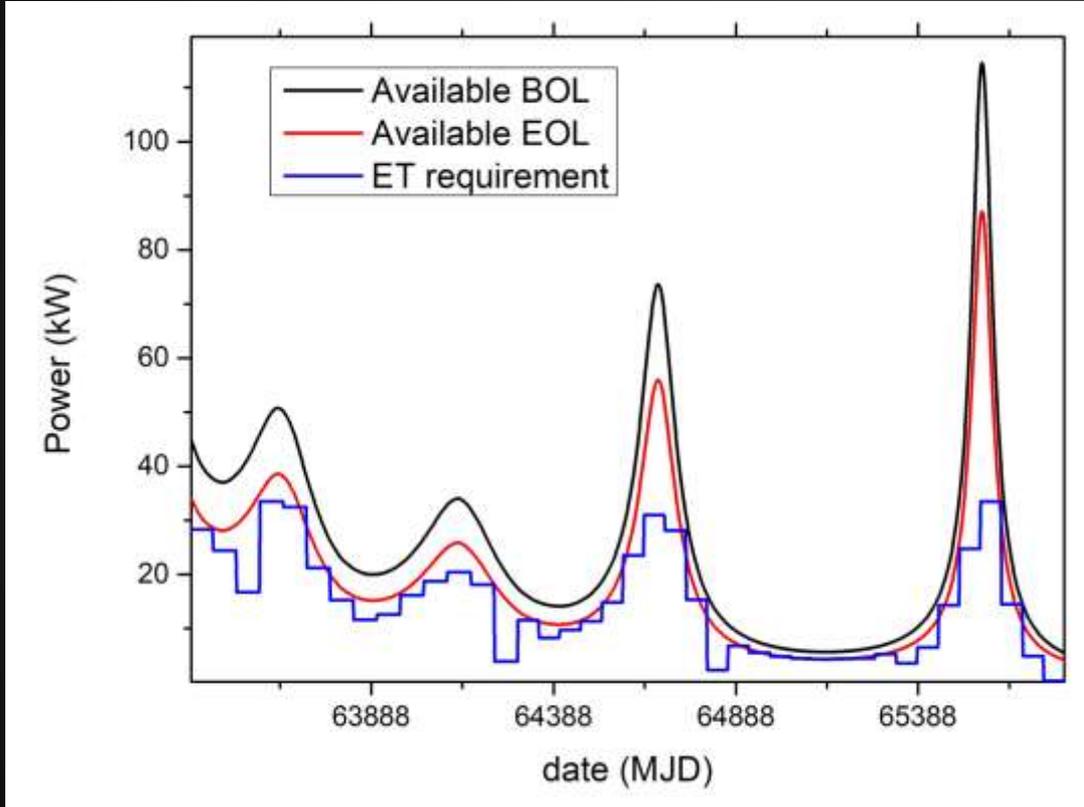
Aerojet Rocketdyne

Other subsystem elements:

- Star Tracker (3x)
- Sun Sensor (3x)
- Reaction Wheels (4x)
- IMU (1x)
- AOCS Control Unit (1x)
- Harnessing
- Propellant tank (1x)
- Laser Altimeter (1x)

Spacecraft Bus - Power

Criticality: Power demanded during the journey to the comet



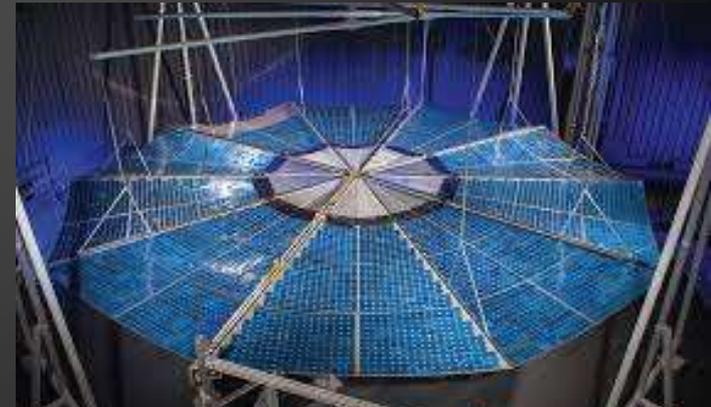
Power estimation:

- 30% average solar cell eff.
- Power conv. efficiency 90%
- Sun angle offset 20°
- EOL Power remaining factor: 0.75

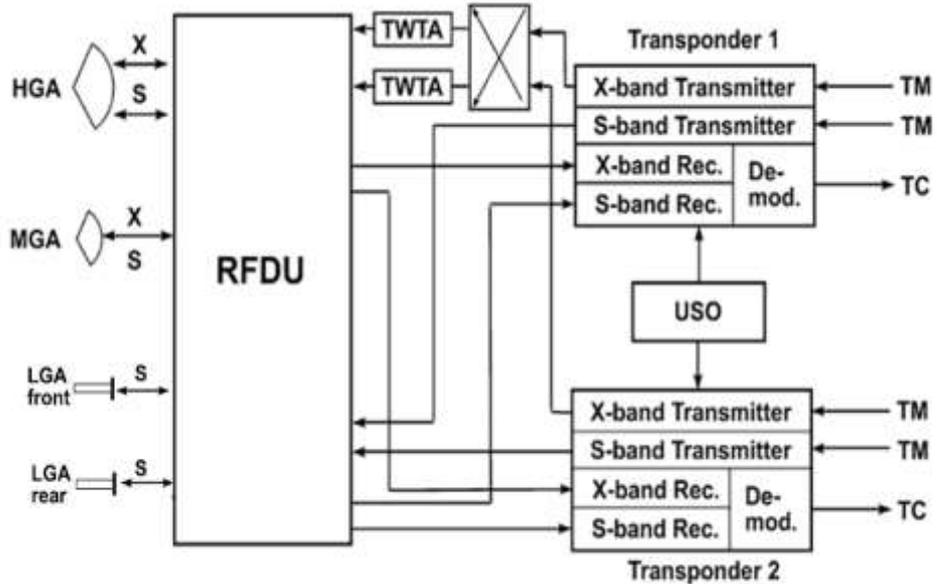
Solar Array sizing:

- **120 m² (2x MEGA Flex configuration)**
Power/Weight ratio: 150 W/kg

Northrop Grumman Corporation



Spacecraft Bus - Communication



Antenna	Freq Band	Communication
HGA	X/S	Science data/telemetry (up to 50 Kbps in worst case)
MGA	X/S	Telemetry/Commissioning Phase/Emergency (2 - 8000 bps)
LGA (x2)	S	Lander Communication (16 Kbps)

Thales Alenia Space



Spacecraft Bus - Thermal



Device	Mass [kg]	Power [W]	Remarks
Multi - layer Insulation	27	-	
Radiators	10	-	w/ Thermal Switch
Heat Pipes	5	-	
Heaters	3	50	



RUAG



ACT



ACT



OMEGA



- **Solar Array Drive Assembly**
 - Max power transfer per wing: 2 kW
 - Septa 31 - RUAG
- **High Gain Antenna Pointing Mechanism**
- **Separation Mechanism**
 - Spin Up & Eject Mechanism



RUAG



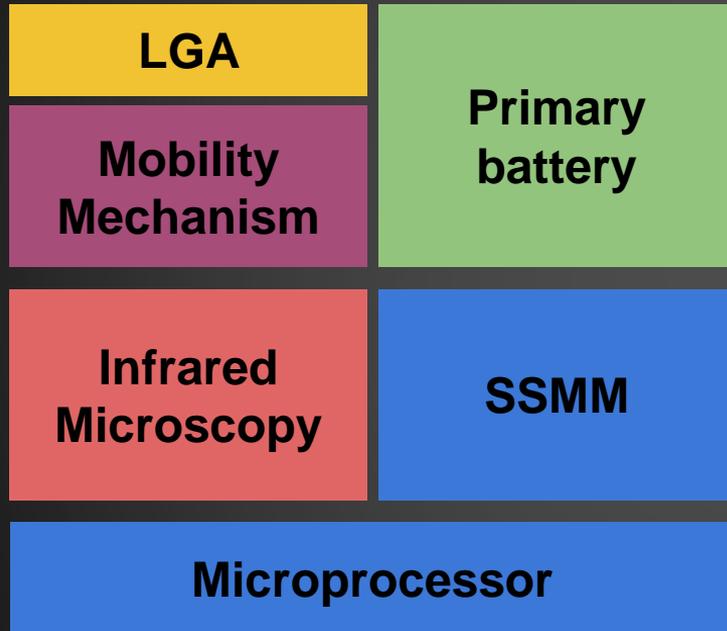
**OWLY
Lander**

**Spacecraft
Bus**

**Sampling &
Transfer
Mechanism**

**Payload
Instruments**

**Earth Return
Capsule**



Characterise the diversity and inhomogeneity at microscopic scale

SSMM required: ~ 2 Gbit

S-band link Orbiter Lander

Power required: 15 W

Operation time: ~ 10 h



**OWLY
Lander**

**Spacecraft
Bus**

**Sampling &
Transfer
Mechanism**

**Payload
Instruments**

**Earth Return
Capsule**

Earth Return Capsule

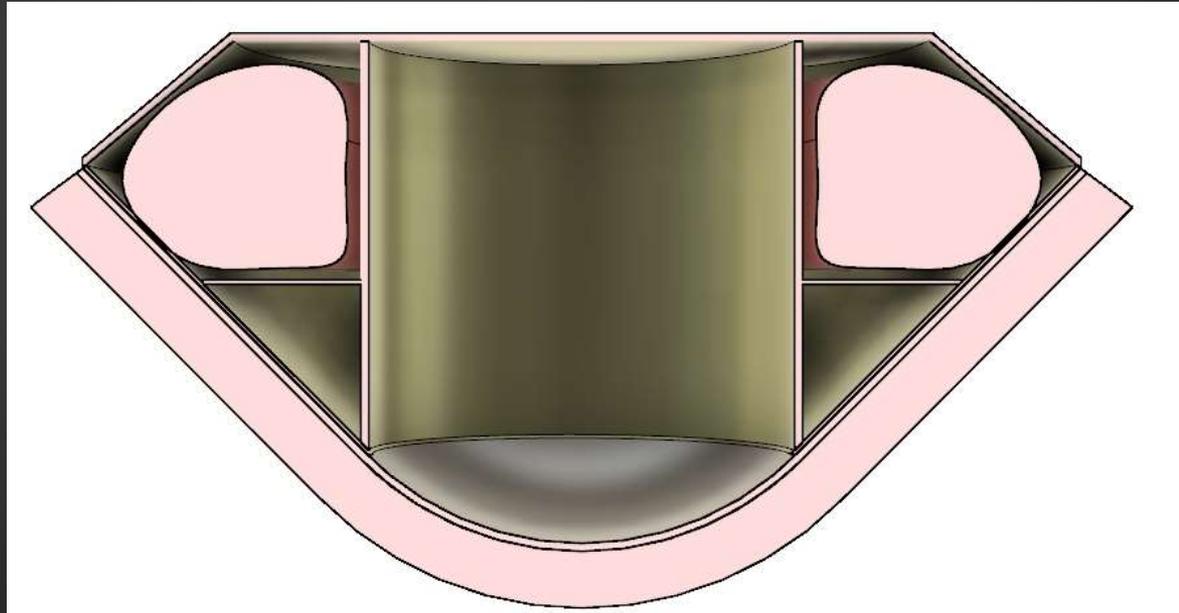


- Scaled from Hayabusa to maintain ballistic coefficient
- ERC required to accommodate sample and cryogenic cooling
- TPS selected based on peak flux
- Mid air retrieval necessary to maintain temperature so crushable design was not considered
- Estimated deceleration is higher than previous missions but similar to Marco-Polo and Marco-Polo 2, 60-70g

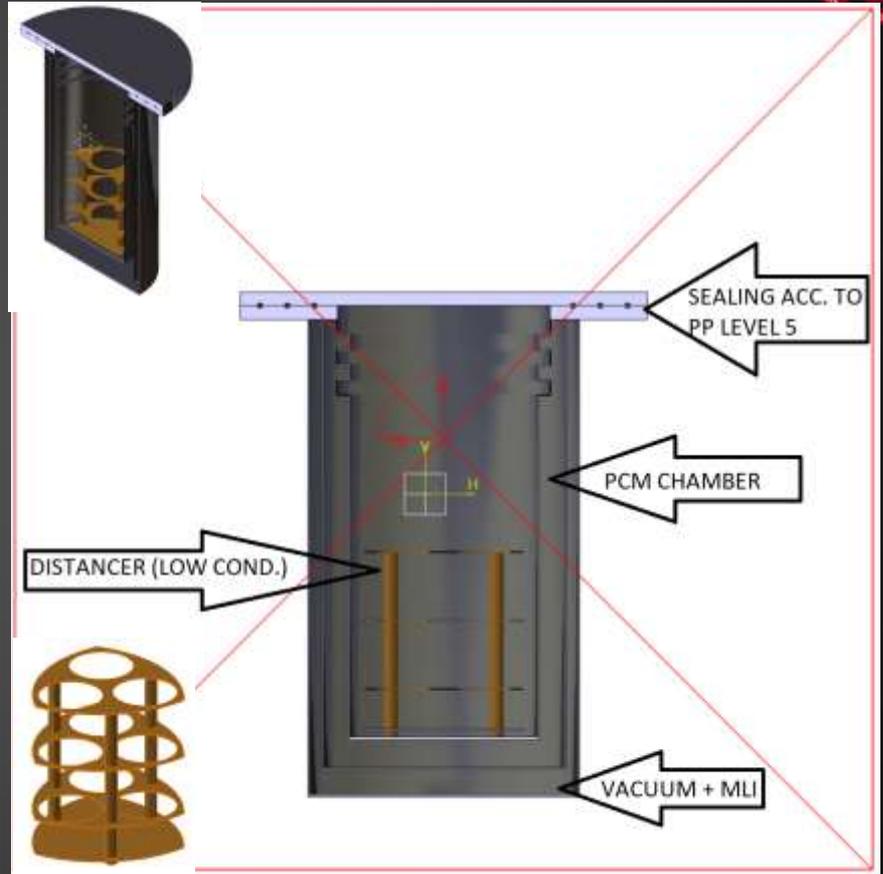
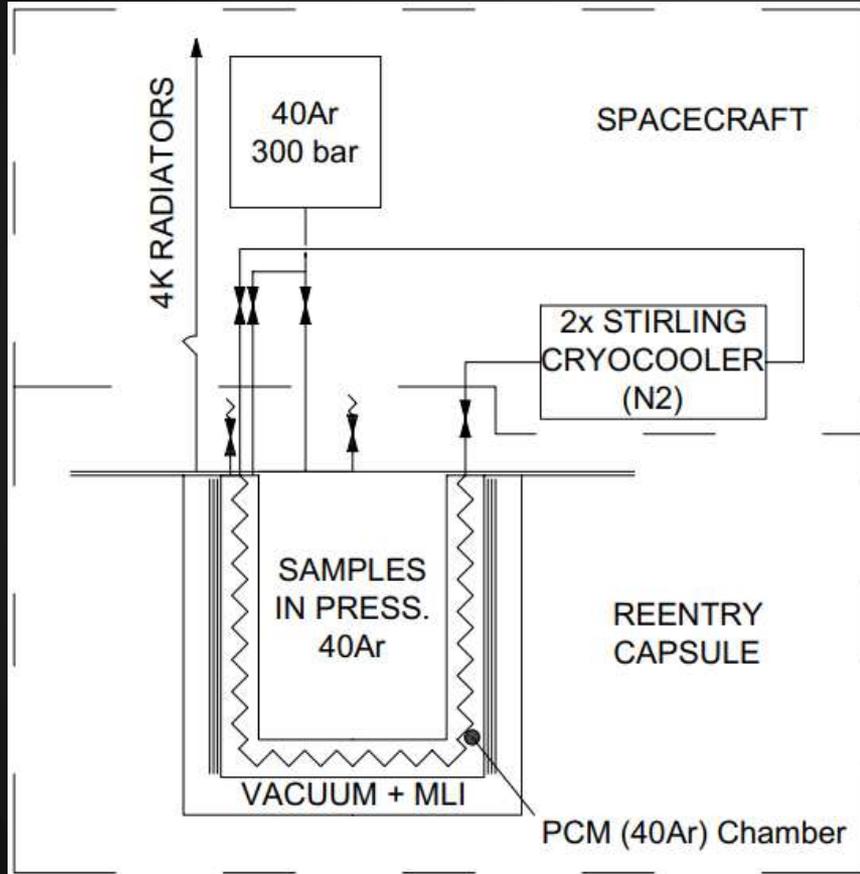
Earth Return Capsule



Peak Heat flux [MW/m ²]	Heat Load [MJ/m ²]	TPS thickness [mm]	TPS Material	Diameter [mm]	Height [mm]
14.8	391.1	63.9	Pica X	780	422



Earth Return Capsule - Biocontainer





Ground Segment



ESA DEEP SPACE NETWORK S/X/Ka band - 120° spaced ca.



ESA

Possible cooperation network with NASA Deep Space Network - 70 m Antenna Goldstone, Madrid

European Space Operations Centre in Darmstadt, Germany



Budgets



Power Budget



Spacecraft operation around the comet (incl. system margin 20 %)

Subsystem	Maximum Power [W]
AOCS	120
TT&C	240
OBDH - PDU	40
PAY	120
THERMAL	80
OWLY Lander	15
S&R Mechanism	120
CRYO	120



Power Budget and Battery sizing



Configuration mode	Nominal	Safe	Science	Sampling
Power / W	500	200	800	600

48 h operation in safe mode without solar power Li-ion battery technology:

Battery Size: 10 kWh - ~ 50 kg



Mass Budget



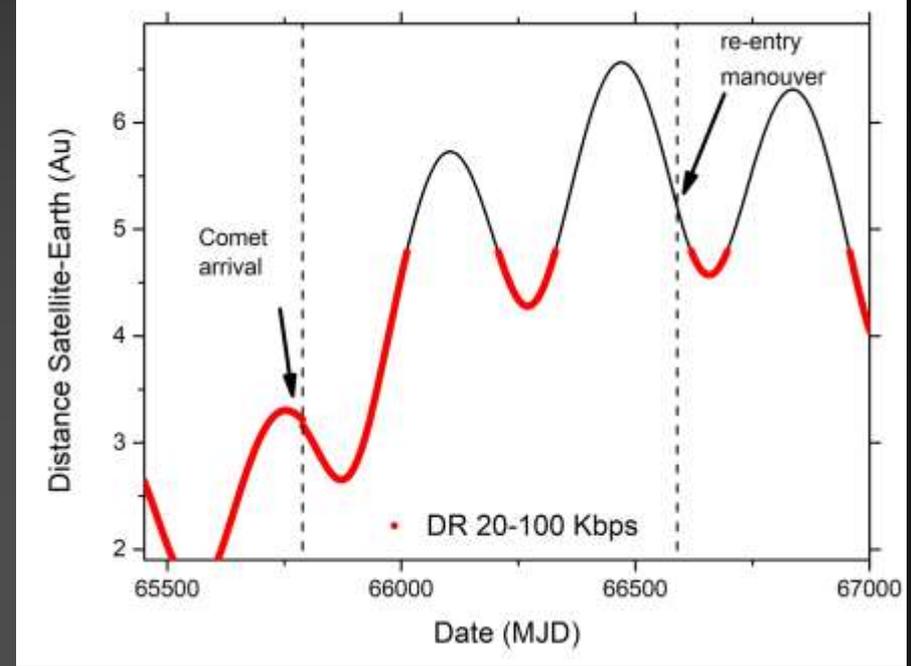
Category	Mass / kg
Payload (excluding lander payload)	70
Spacecraft Bus	1715
OWLY Lander	10
System Dry Mass	1795
System Dry Mass (+ 20% margin)	2154
Propellant Mass (+ 12% margin)	2860
Wet Mass	5014



Link and Data Budget

Link Budget

Distance Sat-Earth [au]	< 4.8
Telemetry DR [Kbit/s]	8 - 10
Science DR [Kbit/s]	~ 100
X-Band HGA Diam [m]	2.2
Power required [W]	150
Eb/En	> 10
BER (QPSK)	~ 2E-6



Data Budget

Data required for comet mapping: ~ 1,5 GB
Worst case mapping time @ 4.8 au: **90 days**

Minimum SSMM Memory Size: 3 GB
(including redundancy)





Science
Case

Payload
Concept

Mission
Profile &
S/C

Project
Envelope

Critical Technology (I)



Technology	TRL est.	Date of est.	Reference
Sampling Mechanism	2	2009	FFF
Earth Return Capsule	3	2016	MSR
Flexible Solar Arrays	3/4	2018	Thales Alenia Space
Bio-container	3/4	2016	MSR



Critical Technology (II)



Technology	TRL est.	Date of est.	Reference
Manipulator (DELIAN)	3/4	2015	Leonardo SPA
Phase Change Material	4	2012	(CNSR) NASA
Rendezvous Equipment Mid Air Retrieval	5	2018	Space Rider



Critical Risks (I)



Probability	
A	Extremely Unlikely
B	Remote
C	Occasional
D	Reasonably Possible
E	Frequent

Severity	
1	No relevant effect
2	Very minor effect
3	Minor effect
4	Moderate
5	Critical
6	Catastrophic



Critical Risks (II)



Prob/Sev	1	2	3	4	5	6	
A		Sample Mechanism fail		ERC development delay	Launch delay	Loss of ERC during re-entry	
B		Sampling Mechanism development delay					
C							
D							
E							





Article IX Outer Space Treaty



COSPAR Planetary Protection Policy:

“**Category V** missions comprise all Earth - return missions. The concern for these missions is the protection of the terrestrial system, the Earth and the Moon.”



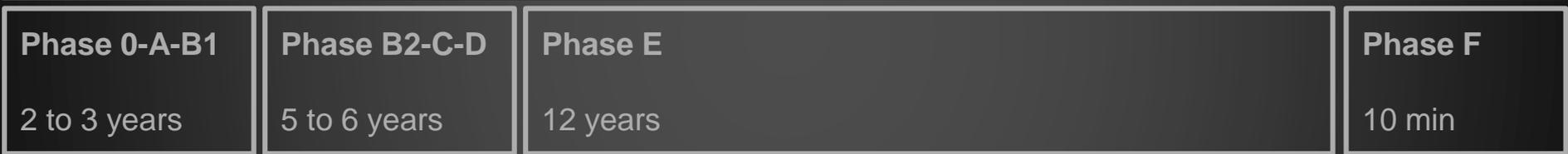
“Does the preponderance of scientific evidence indicate that there was never liquid water in or on the target body?”

= RESTRICTED EARTH RETURN



“Does the preponderance of scientific evidence indicate that there was never liquid water in or on the target body?”

= RESTRICTED EARTH RETURN



Cost Estimation



Main Spacecraft	1077 MEU
Lander	4 MEU
Re-entry/Sample Canister Module	20 MEU
Operations	192 MEU
Launcher	90 MEU
Member States	41 MEU
Total Cost	1424 MEU



- Cosmic Vision 2015 - 2025
- What are the conditions for planet formation and the emergence of life?
- How does the Solar System work?





- Priority of ESA exploitation facilities
- Collected scientific data and results transferred to public archive for further analysis after first examination period (1 - 2 years)
- Processed data for future educational programmes and outreach activities



Public Outreach





Story of the Universe



The Universe



Gravity



It all began with a Big Bang!



The birth of galaxies



Cosmic distances



3D Map of Dark Matter



🌌 Story of the Universe



BBC

Water and Life



The Universe



Gravity



It all began with Bang!



The birth of galaxies



Cosmic distances



3D Map of Dark Matter





Sample Return Mission Design Training 2050

OWL Science Operations Scheduling Legacy Workshop 2050



THE OWL HAS LANDED



Thank you!