


SCIENCE PORTAL

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH



Cosmic Vision 2015-2025

Science Programme  
European Space Agency

Cosmic Vision 2015-2025

- Cosmic Vision
- Study Missions
- M-class Timeline
- L-class Timeline

The Four Themes

- Planets and Life
- The Solar System
- Fundamental Laws
- The Universe

News

Cosmic Vision Brochure

Cross-Scale

Euclid

Marco Polo

PLATO

Solar Orbiter

- Science
- Instruments
- Spacecraft
- Mission
- Technical Documentation
- Publications
- Calendar
- News Archive
- Images and Videos


SPICA

EJSM/LAPLACE

IXO/XEUS

LISA

TandEM/TSSM



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25-Jun-2010 12:23:55 UT

Mission Summary

Solar Orbiter

Exploring our nearest star

Theme	How does the Solar System work?
Primary Goal	To produce images of the Sun at an unprecedented resolution and perform closest ever in-situ measurements
Targets	The Sun
Wavelength	Visible, extreme ultra violet, X-rays
Orbit	Elliptical orbit around the Sun with perihelion as low as 0.23 AU and with increasing inclination up to more than 30° with respect to the solar equator.
Lifetime	6 years (nominal)
Type	M-class mission

Mission home:

<http://sci.esa.int/solarorbiter>


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



ESA chooses three scientific missions for further study



ESA announces preliminary payload selection for Solar Orbiter



Solar Orbiter Payload AO

NEWS FEED



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LATEST PUBLICATIONS

- ESA Technical Review Report - Solar Orbiter (SRE-PA/2009/90)
- Solar Orbiter assessment study report (SRE-2009-5)

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Solar Orbiter Mission Video
- Solar Orbiter mission report from 37th COSPAR meeting

HIGHLIGHTS

- M-class missions presentation event 2009 (1 Dec 2009)
- 3rd Solar Orbiter Workshop (25-29 May 2009)

By approaching as close as 62 solar radii, Solar Orbiter will view the solar atmosphere with high spatial resolution and combine this with measurements made in-situ. Over the extended mission periods Solar Orbiter will deliver images and data that will cover the polar regions and the side of the Sun not visible from Earth.



Solar Orbiter will coordinate its scientific mission with NASA's Solar Probe Plus within the joint HELEX programme (*Heliophysics Explorers*) to maximise their combined science return.

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<http://sci.esa.int/science-e/www/area/index.cfm?fareaid=45>

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