

BepiColombo – Exploring Mercury

The European Space Agency's mission to Mercury will travel 8,524,000,000 km in seven years to reach the planet closest to the Sun. Upon arrival, the European and Japanese spacecraft will separate and each enter their own orbits around the planet.

MPO Orbit: 480 x 1,500 km

The **Mercury Transfer Module (MTM)**, carries the interplanetary propulsion system. It is jettisoned on arrival.

Mercury

As prime contractor for ESA, **Airbus** is responsible for designing and building all of the European spacecraft hardware.

MPO

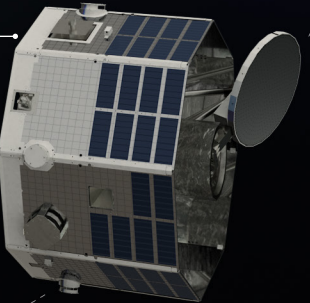
The **Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO)** will focus on the surface and interior science of Mercury with instruments that will point continuously at the planet.

The **Heat shield (MOSIF)** protects the Japanese orbiter MMO during the long journey. It is jettisoned at Mercury.

MMO Orbit: 590 x 11,640 km

MMO

The **Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO)** is the only part of the mission supplied by the Japanese space agency JAXA. It will focus on exploring Mercury's magnetic environment.



AIRBUS