



ASTEX

– Near-Earth Asteroid Mission Concept Study –

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Primary Objectives of the ASTEX Study

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Identification of the required technologies for an in-situ mission to two near-Earth asteroids.

- **Selection of realistic mission scenarios**
- **Definition of the strawman payload**
- **Analysis of the requirements and options for the spacecraft bus, the propulsion system, the lander system, and the launcher**
- **Definition of the requirements for the mission's operational ground segment**



ASTEX Primary Mission Goals

- The mission scenario foresees to visit two NEAs which have different mineralogical compositions: one “primitive” object and one fragment of a differentiated asteroid.
- The higher level goal is the provision of information and constraints on the formation and evolution history of our planetary system.
- The immediate mission goals are the determination of:
 - Inner structure of the targets
 - Physical parameters (size, shape, mass, density, rotation period and spin vector orientation)
 - Geology, mineralogy, and chemistry
 - Physical surface properties (thermal conductivity, roughness, strength)
 - Origin and collisional history of asteroids
 - Link between NEAs and meteorites

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Target Selection (I)

Updating the NASA Database

- Go to: http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/neo_elem
- Select from the pull-down menu: "unlimited rows per page"; activate the "show full table" flag; "Display table" BUTTON
- Select all NEA rows (no header row) from "433 Eros" to the end and copy (CTRL+C)
- Copy (CTRL+C; takes approx. 30 seconds)
- IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Firefox macro does not work with Excel 2000!
- Launch Macro "Update_NASA" or press the button to the right (takes approx. 25 seconds)
- Control in sheet "Merged NEA Data" that cell "K1" and "D2" contain the same number of asteroids:

Asteroids
5000
Check OK

Updating the EARN Database

- Go to: <http://earn.dir.de/nea/>
- Select "Table on Physical Properties of NEOs"
- Select all NEA rows (no header row) from "433 Eros" to the end and copy (CTRL+C)
- Launch Macro "Update_EARN" or press the button to the right (takes approx. 15 seconds)
- Click on "OK" when requested to overwrite the data
- Control in sheet "E.A.R.N." that all the names are similar to NASA database (column S and T6:W15):

Asteroids
689
Check OK

Updating the User Database

- Go to "User Database" sheet
- Insert the data according to the existing scheme
- Launch Macro "Update_User" or press the button to the right (takes approx. 1 minutes)
- Control in sheet "User Database" that all the names are similar to NASA database (column H)
- In case of failures (name not found) insert manually the correct names
- Re-launch macro "Update_User" or press the button to the right (takes approx. 1 minutes)

Entries
134
Check OK

Merged Database

- All three databases "NASA", "EARN" and "User" are merged in sheet "Merged NEA Data"

Number of Asteroids with Known Taxonomy

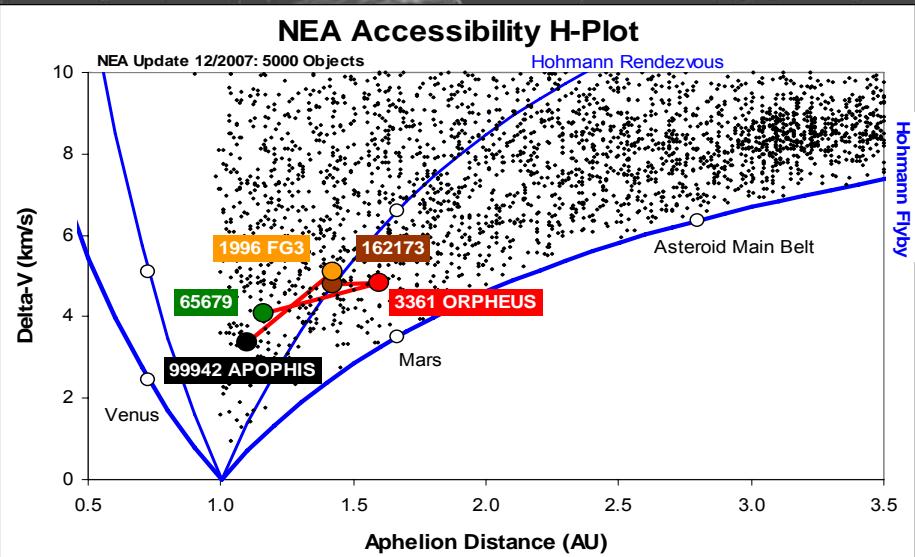
NASA	0	+	EARN	386	+	User	134	⇒	Merged	431
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Merged list of asteroids >> 5000 asteroids												Asteroids with Known Taxonomy >> 431																								
5000 Asteroids Updated on 01.12.2007												689 Asteroids Updated on 01.12.2007																								
Object Name & Number	Epoch	T (TDB)	(AU)	i	(deg)	w	(deg)	M	q	G	P	(yr)	H	MJD	Ref	Class	A	Albedo	Diameter	(km)	Taxonomy	Period	(hrs)	Amplitude	(mag)	Binary	Avg v	Vini	Vout	Avg v	(km/s)	(km/s)	(km/s)	mass	mean e	(%)
433 Eros	54200	1.458	0.2	18.88	179	304	104	1.1334	1.78	1.75	11.2	0.15	235 AMO	10.31	7	0.21	23.6	9	S	5.27	0.04-1.4	3.92	18.94	19.71	0.77	4.69	3.57	7.58	64.85	37.73						
719 Albert	54200	2.829	0.6	11.55	158	184	113	1.777	4.08	4.28	15.8	0.19	27 AMO	15.80	5	2.4	4.8	5.501	0.74-0.9	7.97	9.25	9.87	0.62	8.58	1.85	9.93	91.64	46.23								
887 Alinda	54200	2.484	0.6	9.333	350	111	162	1.0815	3.89	3.92	13.8	0.1	60 AMO	13.83	0.23	4.2	4.8	7.93	0.35	7.79	9.66	9.95	0.28	8.08	1.57	9.38	90.43	44.37								
1036 Gümüş	54200	2.695	0.6	26.87	132	211	162	1.2429	4.09	3.45	9.45	0.34	180 AMO	9.5	0.17	38.5	10.31	0.12-0.4	7.97	9.23	10.05	0.81	8.79	4.27	12.31	95.39	53.67									
1221 Hamer	54200	2.197	0.6	11.99	194	201	162	1.2429	2.91	2.97	16.9	0.03	180 AMO	2.60	0.07	38.5	10.31	0.12-0.4	7.97	9.23	10.05	0.81	8.79	4.27	12.31	95.39	53.67									
1561 Icarus	54200	1.078	0.6	22.85	313	88.1	285	0.1986	3.97	1.12	16.9	0.03	55 APO	15.00	0.33	1.3	SLQ	2.273	0.05-0.2	4.52	17.42	18.81	0.61	13.13	3.49	13.81	96.83	57.81								
1581 Bellona	54200	2.197	0.6	52.1	160	32.7	182	0.177	3.26	14.5	17.8	AMO	14.05	0.07	4.57	C	6.1324	0.21-0.6	7.08	11.27	11.78	0.51	7.59	9.9	16.99	98.57	56.43									
1620 Geographics	54200	1.245	0.5	13.34	277	337	71.8	0.8276	1.66	1.36	15.6	0.03	143 APO	16.5	0.19	52x1.5	1.0	2.20-1.0	3.49	20.05	18.88	1.16	4.66	4.39	6.87	86.57	39.46									
1627 Heron	54200	2.197	0.6	11.99	194	201	162	1.2429	2.91	2.97	16.9	0.03	180 AMO	0.31	0.12	4.7	4.7	0.07	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11						
1685 Toro	54200	1.367	0.4	9.381	127	274	211	0.7712	1.96	1.6	14.2	0.05	122 APO	13.00	0.31	3	S	10.196	0.60-1.4	4.49	17.49	18.01	-1.49	5.97	2.62	7.50	84.66	37.42								
1688 Apollo	54200	1.471	0.6	6.355	286	358	315	0.6473	2.29	1.78	16.3	0.03	139 APO	16.00	0.26	1.4	O	3.065	0.15-0.8	B	5.36	15.35	13.10	2.25	7.81	1.45	8.03	86.58	39.47							
1689 Antinous	54200	2.28	0.6	18.4	281	347	303	0.6473	3.0	3.15	15.5	0.08	29 AMO	15.80	0.18	1.8	SsQ	7.4500	0.04-0.2	7.95	10.28	9.81	0.18	7.81	3.14	10.83	98.88	48.71								
1690 Prometheus	54200	2.074	0.6	22.85	328	171	62	0.5633	2.96	1.77	16.9	0.03	180 AMO	15.02	0.12	3.1	SQ	8.874	0.88-1.0	5.52	12.93	12.93	2.93	5.88	1.11	9.83	94.43	49.73								
1865 Cerberus	54200	1.08	0.6	16.09	325	213	108	0.5757	1.58	1.12	16.8	0.16	41 APO	16.97	0.28	1	S	6.81	14.8-2.1	3.18	20.87	17.37	3.50	6.68	4.82	9.17	99.90	43.62								
1866 Styphus	54200	1.894	0.5	18.09	233	634	88.6	0.8759	2.91	1.71	12.3	0.17	167 APO	15.04	0.15	8.48	S	2.4	0.11	6.55	12.49	11.89	0.61	7.16	8.38	14.94	97.61	60.69								
1912 Meliboeus	54200	2.197	0.6	11.99	194	201	162	1.2429	2.91	2.97	16.9	0.03	180 AMO	0.05	0.14	0.4	S	4.7404	0.04-0.5	5.04	12.49	12.49	0.53	5.88	1.04	9.89	98.88	50.47								
1918 Rovens	54200	2.273	0.6	12.86	336	341	230	1.252	3.29	3.43	14.5	0.25	48 AMO	15.03	0.08	3.1	S	3.7476	0.35	7.10	11.21	12.21	0.99	8.10	2.51	9.81	91.30	45.63								
1917 Cuyo	54200	2.15	0.6	38.95	194	184	194	1.0653	3.73	3.18	13.9	0.13	67 AMO	14.77	0.17	5.2	S	2.99	0.11-0.4	7.02	11.40	11.69	0.38	7.34	4.73	11.76	94.72	52.06								
1913 Anteros	54200	1.43	0.3	8.705	308	303	103	0.1042	1.8	1.71	15.8	0.08	114 AMO	16.01	0.18	1.8	S	2.8995	0.05-0.1	3.99	18.77	19.12	0.35	4.34	2.85	6.87	82.00	34.86								
1988 Phobos	54200	2.284	0.6	11.99	194	201	162	1.2429	2.91	2.97	16.9	0.03	180 AMO	0.05	0.14	0.4	SU	7.2740	0.47-0.9	7.95	10.23	10.49	0.49	8.14	2.51	9.89	94.71	50.47								
1981 Midas	54200	1.776	0.7	288	287	111	624	0.6214	2.93	2.37	15.5	0.01	62 APO	15.00	0.12	2.2	S	5.22	0.05-0.8	6.69	12.42	10.30	-2.11	8.70	7.02	13.92	96.92	58.10								
2059 Babuvarli	54200	2.646	0.5	11.03	191	201	7	1.2455	4.05	4.3	16.8	0.25	47 AMO	14.70	0.08	1.7	TG*	5.76-11.0	0.09-0.2	7.34	10.67	10.87	0.20	7.54	0.70	8.87	86.71	39.61								
2061 Anza	54200	2.284	0.5	13.34	277	208	233	1.0472	3.48	3.41	16.8	0.08	12 AMO	16.00	0.11	1.7	TG*	5.76-11.0	0.09-0.2	7.34	10.67	10.87	0.20	7.54	0.70	8.87	86.71	39.61								
2062 An	54200	2.197	0.6	11.99	194	201	162	1.2429	2.91	2.97	16.9	0.03	180 AMO	17.12	0.2	0.9	S	40.177	0.28	7.95	10.23	10.49	0.49	8.14	2.51	9.89	94.71	50.47								
2063 Bauchus	54200	1.078	0.3	9.434	552	33.2	72.9	0.7013	1.45	1.12	17.1	0.07	48 APO	16.12	0.12	1.2	SQ	14.904	0.22-0.4	2.82	22.35	20.02	2.33	4.98	3.29	6.65	81.05	34.03								
2102 Ra-Shalom	54200	0.832	0.4	15.76	356	171	58.2	0.4869	2.12	1.76	16.1	0.15	109 ATE	16.12	0.082	2.78	S,S,C	19.7998	0.35-0.4	1.32	25.93	20.31	5.62	6.88	5.57	9.23	90.06	43.85								
2103 Adonis	54200	1.803	0.6	11.99	194	201	162	1.2429	2.91	2.97	16.9	0.03	180 AMO	0.05	0.14	0.4	S	2.7408	0.04-0.5	7.95	10.23	10.49	0.49	8.14	2.51	9.89	94.71	50.47								
2102 Taquile	54200	1.29	0.3	64.01	416	94.4	1.0945	1.68	1.47	16.2	0.04	25 APO	16.20	0.08	3.3	S	2.391	0.08	3.77	19.85	19.20	-0.66	4.22	20.35	20.93	99.75	77.55									
2135 Aristeus	54200	1.8	0.5	23.05	291	191	326	0.3591	3.97	3.19	13.9	0.12	7 APO	17.50	0.01	7 APO	S,S,Q	>20.	0.08-0.1	7.88	9.48	6.12	3.37	11.23	1.25	11.46	94.30	51.13								
2201 Ojato	54200	2.172	0.7	51.73	96.3	76.6	160	0.6232	3.72	3.2	15.3	0	32 APO	16.84	0.24	2.1	E,Sq	26	0.1	7.61	10.05	10.27	1.78	7.95	0.38	9.43	90.53	44.53								
2202 Ondina	54200	2.197	0.6	11.99	194	201	162	1.2429	2.91	2.97	16.9	0.03	180 AMO	0.05	0.14	0.4	S	2.7408	0.04-0.5	7.95	10.23	10.49	0.49	8.14	2.51	9.89	94.71	50.47								
2212 Hephastos	54200	2.168	0.6	11.99	194	201	162	1.2429	2.91	2.97	16.9	0.03	180 AMO	0.05	0.14	0.4	S	2.7408	0.04-0.5	7.95	10.23	10.49	0.49	8.14	2.51	9.89	94.71	50.47								
2239 Orthos	54200	2.405	0.7	24.41	146	77.3	0.8242	3.99	3.73	14.9	0.1	60 APO	15.00	0.05	0.3	CS, Sg	>20.	0.08-0.1	7.88	9.44	8.71	-0.73	8.62	3.03	11.64	94.55	51.68									
2348 Athaf	54200	0.844	0.4	5.854	309	212	190	0.4644	2.22	0.78	19.2	0.08	36 APO	20.2	0.08	2.0	S,CS, Sg	>20.	0.08-0.1	1.44	25.00	20.25	-0.52	6.58	2.02	11.63	93.95	36.75								
2369 Bernice	54200	2.053	0.5	22.8	349	223	1.1037	2.98	2.9	15.3	0.1	71 APO	15.02	0.13	2.3	S	5.9	0.84	8.0	14.93	15.11	0.05	8.02	12.19	10.65	90.43	33.53									
2382 Seleucus	54200	2.053	0.5	5.932	349	223	1.1037	2.98	2.9	15.3	0.1	72 APO	15.02	0.13	2.3	S	5.9	0.84	8.0	14.93	15.11	0.05	8.02	12.19	10.65	90.43	33.53									
3352 McAuliffe	54200	2.179	0.4	4.772	15.8	107	50.1	1.0833	2.57	2.58	15.0	0.1																								



Target Selection (II)

1. Pre-selection
 - $H < 22.5 \text{ mag}$
 - $\Delta v < 7 \text{ km/s}$ for 1st target
2. Hohmann transfer computations
 - Combinations with $\Delta v > 11 \text{ km/s}$ rejected
3. Patched conics computations
 - Time interval of missions: 2015 to 2040
 - Max. mission duration: 15 years
4. Identification of interesting NEA pairs
 - Primitive asteroid of type: C, D, P, B, F
 - Evolved fragment of type: E, V, M, S, A, Q, R
5. Prioritizing
 - V and E types favored
 - Rotation period between 2h and 80h
 - Min. time of stay around NEA: 6 months
 - Max. total mission duration < 10 years
6. Low-thrust computations of complete transfers for 29 missions scenarios and selection.
 - Output: 3 primary missions



Mission Index	1st Target	Taxonomy of 1st	2nd Target	Taxonomy of 2nd
38	99942 Apophis	Sq	1996 FG3	C
150	162173 1999 JU3	Cg	3361 Orpheus	S, V
152	65679 1989 UQ	B	3361 Orpheus	S, V



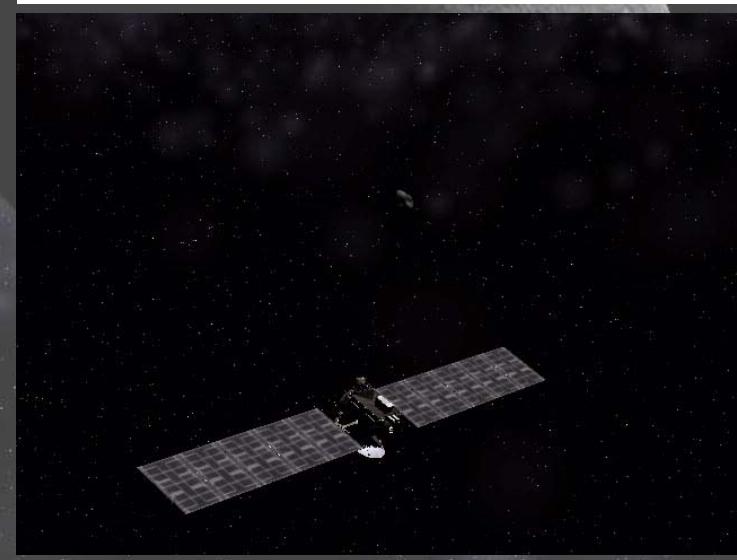
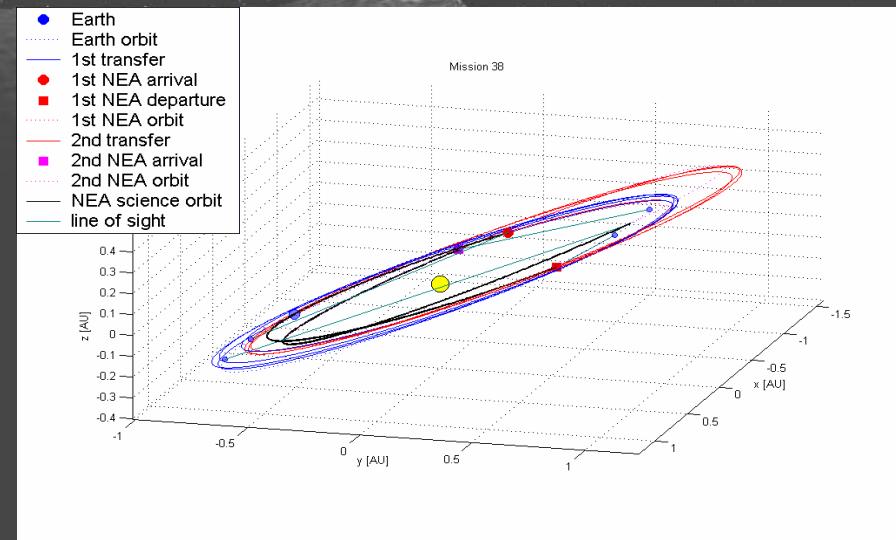
Mission Analysis -Transfer-

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- Propulsion system
 - Δv requirement of up to 11 km/s
 - > Chemical propulsion system is insufficient
 - > High Isp for low fuel consumption
- Ion engines required

Index	38
1st Target	99942 Apophis
2nd Target	1996 FG3
Taxonomy 1st	Sq
Taxonomy 2nd	C
Start Mission	20 May 2023
Arrival 1st	08 Jun 2027
Departure 1st	05 Dec 2027
Arrival 2nd	30 Dec 2031
End Mission	27 Jun 2032
1st Transfer Time	1480 d
Stay Time 1st	180 d
2nd Transfer Time	1486 d
Stay Time 2nd	180 d
Mission Duration	9.11 years
Delta-V to 1st	3.838 km/s
Delta-V to 2nd	5.276 km/s
Delta-V Mission	9.114 km/s
Fuel Mass	287.3 kg

ASTEX baseline mission





Proximity Operations

• Orbiting

- Uncontrolled stable orbiting (thrust free)
- Controlled orbiting (periodic correction maneuvers required)

• Flyovers

- High-altitude flyovers
- Low-altitude flyovers

• Hovering

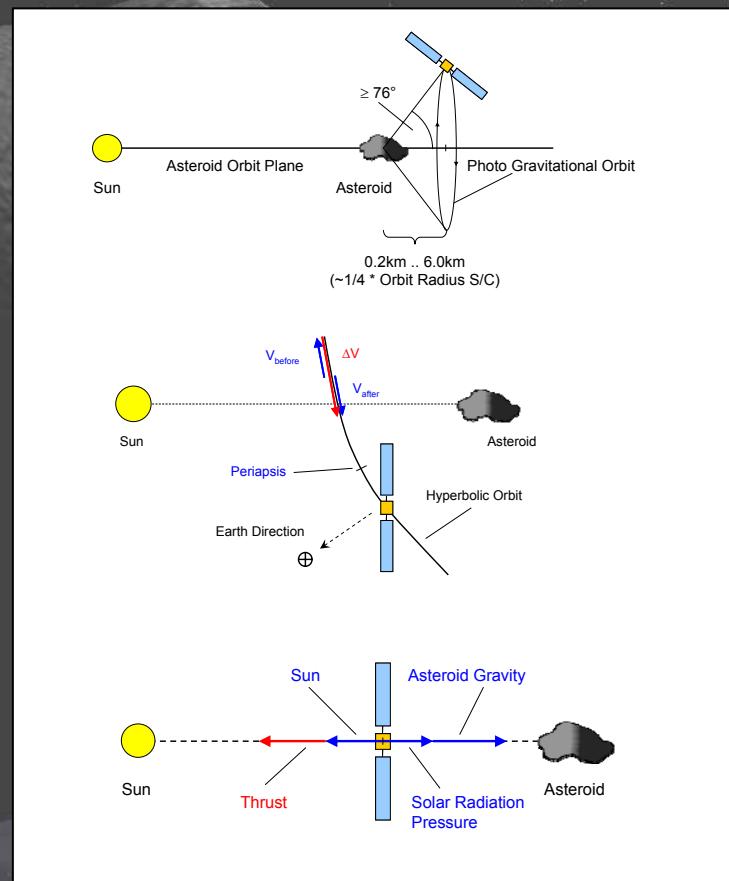
- Inertial hovering
- Body-fixed hovering

• Landing

Conclusions:

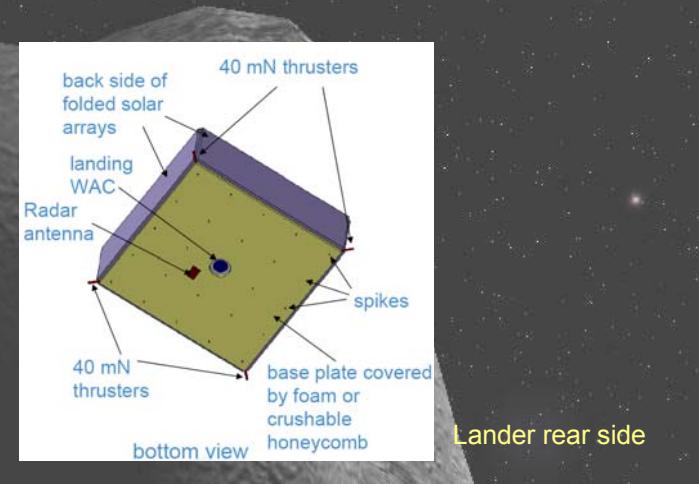
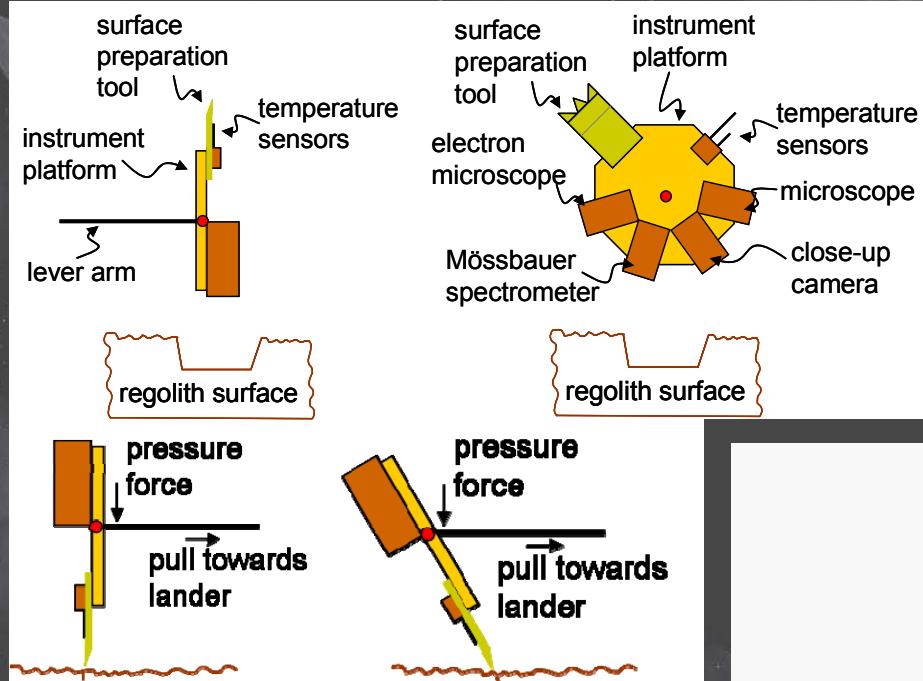
- Hovering [imaging phase] and (stable) terminator orbit [radar phase]
- Autonomous active lander descent with visual navigation on sunlit asteroid side
- Further investigations especially for binary systems needed

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ASTEX Lander

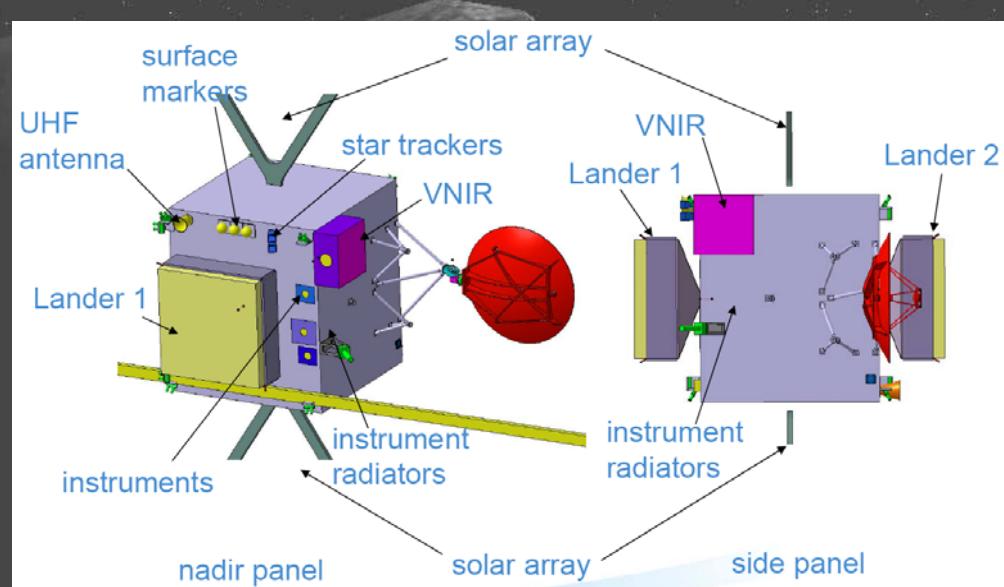


Surface analysis



ASTEX Spacecraft

- Carries two landers and the remote sensing payload
- SEP
- Power generation by 40 m² solar arrays
- Visual navigation during target approach
- Autonomous collision avoidance
- Mono-prop system for proximity operations
- Extended tracking mode at second target possible



Low cost launcher: Soyuz-Fregat ST offers sufficient performance for direct Earth escape of the ASTEX S/C (mass 1598 kg, incl. 20% margin).

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ASTEX Strawman Payload

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Orbiter Instruments	Mass [kg]	Size [mm ³]	Power Consumption [W]
Radar Reflection Tomographer	12	Antennas: 15 m length each Electronics: 160 x 250 x 110	100 (peak)
Cameras	2 * 5.5	160 x 190 x 380	18 (average)
VNIR Spectrometer	15	500 x 500 x 30	20 (average)
Laser Ranger	5	140 x 120 x 120	9 (peak)

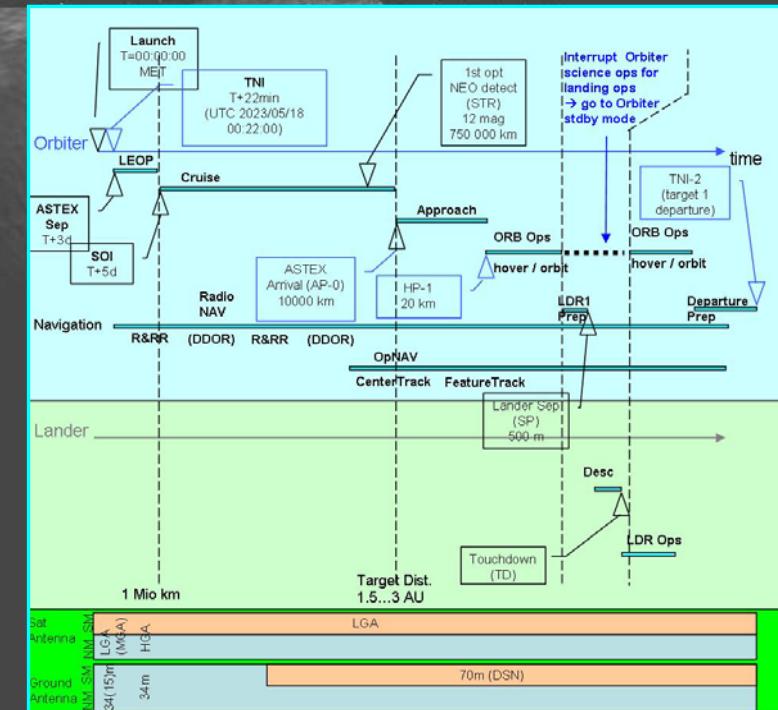
Lander Instruments	Mass [kg]	Size [mm ³]	Power Consumption [W]	Comment
Panoramic Camera (two camera heads)	2 x 0.5	2 x (90x60x80)	2 x 2.5 (peak)	On robotic arm or elevated rotatable platform
Microscope	0.3	125x60x50	5 (peak)	On robotic arm
Close-Up Camera	0.5	90x60x80	6 (peak)	On robotic arm
Electron Microscope	0.5	50x50x80	3 (peak)	On robotic arm
Temperature Sensor (16 sensors)	16 x 0.02	10x10x3	16 x 0.01	On robotic arm and distributed over lander on representative positions
Mössbauer-Spectrometer	0.8	90x50x40	5 (peak)	On robotic arm
Common DPU/ PSU	4.0	120x120x60	12	On lander base



Mission Flight Phases

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ORBITER	Phase	Description	Distance from Target [km]	LANDER	Phase	Description
Launch and Cruise	LEOP					
	Commissioning					
	IC	Interplanetary cruise starts at SOI distance				
Approach	AP-0	initial approach point	10000			
	AP-1	approach step 1	2000			
	AP-2	approach step 2	100			
	AP-3	approach step 3	50			
Hovering and / or Orbiting	HP-1	hover position 1	20			
	HP-2	hover position 2	10			
	HP-3	hover position 3	1.5			
	OP-1	orbit insertion 1 (optional)	1			
	OP-2	orbit insertion 2 (optional)	0.5			
Lander Separation	SP	Lander separation betw. HP-2 and OP-2 (interrupt Orbiter Ops)	0.5 .. 10	Lander Ops	SP	Lander separation position
Target Science Ops	HP-X	...further hover positions			LP	Touchdown at landing point
	OP-X	...further orbit phases			LO-1	Start lander ops 1
	FO-X	...further fly-overs			LO-2	Start lander ops 2



ASTEX timeline for the baseline mission in graphical form



Conclusions

- The ASTEX mission to two NEAs of different composition would represent a giant step forward in the exploration of the Solar System.
- The ASTEX study demonstrates the overall technical feasibility of the mission and highlights some technological challenges that require further study and development.
- The favoured system concept being one orbiter to perform the remote-sensing campaigns and carry two identical lander units.

ASTEX