

MarcoPolo-R Preliminary mission design

Science and Robotic Exploration Directorate,
Advanced Studies and
Technology Preparation Division

Target Overview



Name: 1996 FG3

Class: C-type binary

> Orbit: 0.69 to 1.42 AU from Sun

Inclination: 1.99 degEccentricity: 0.3498

Orbital period: 1.08 years

Primary

✓ Diameter: 1.4±0.2 km

✓ Mass: 2.1 E12 kg

✓ Geometric albedo: 0.035

✓ Spin period: 3.595±0.002 hrs

✓ Density: 1.4±0.3 g.cm^-3

✓ Taxonomic type: C

✓ Surface temperature up to 200°C

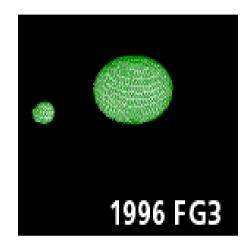
Secondary

✓ Secondary to primary diameter ratio: 0.28±0.02

✓ Orbital semimajor axis: 3.1±0.5 km

✓ Orbital eccentricity: 0.1±0.1

Orbital period around primary: 16.14±0.01 hrs



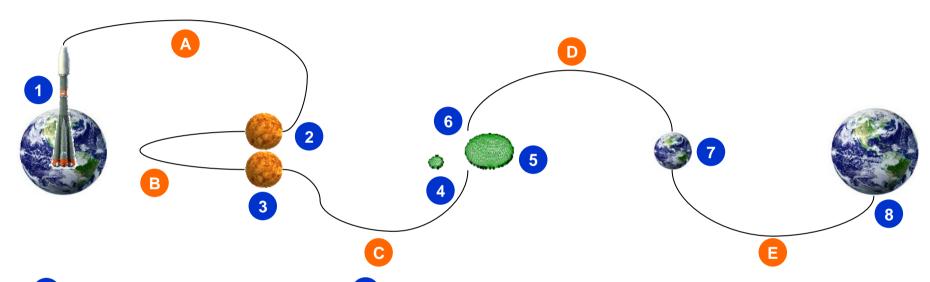
S/C design



- > ~ 1.5-1.6 tons launch mass
- Electric propulsion
- 6.7 to 8 year mission
- Baseline launch in 2021
- Backup opportunities in 2022, 2023
- Stay time at the asteroid between 180 and 265 days (see minimum required timeline in later slides)
- Science orbits (global characterisation) around the asteroid: node placed such that 9/21 or 15/3 Sun Synchronous Orbits are obtained
- Science orbits altitude could be between 1 and 5 km, not frozen yet, requires further analysis
- Payload mass allocation 25 kg, including maturity margins

Baseline mission architecture





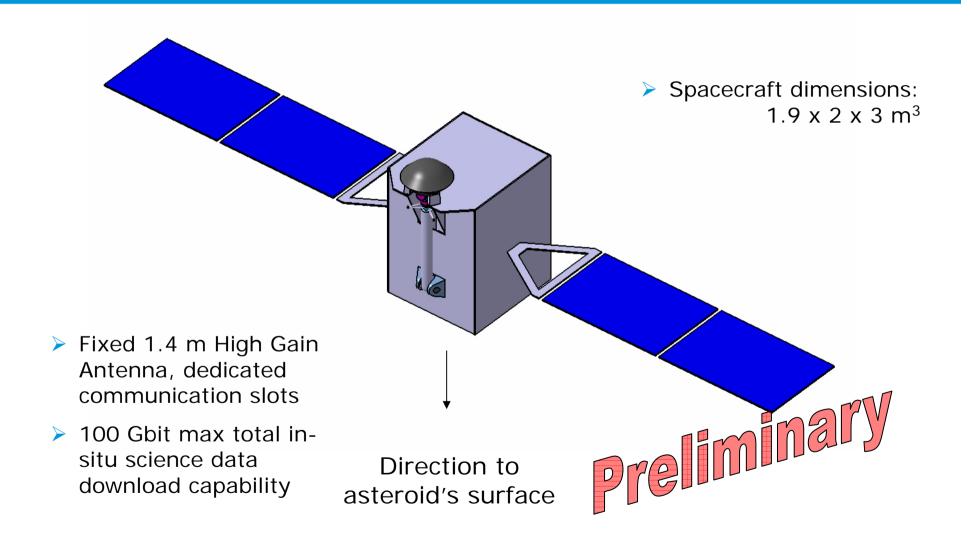
- 1 Soyuz ST launch from Kourou (FR)
- 2 First Venus Swing-by
- 3 Second Venus Swing-by
- 4 Arrival to 1996 FG3

- 5 Observation & sample collection
- 6 S/C Departure (Return to Earth)
- 7 Earth Swing-by
- 8 ERC return to Earth

EP thrust and coast arcs

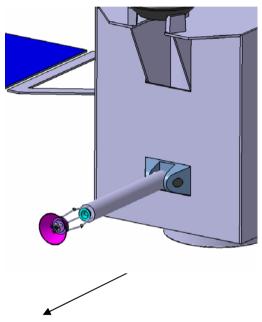
S/C Deployed





S/C during sampling





Direction to asteroid's surface

Touch and go sampling approach (< 2 seconds touchdown on the surface)



Proposed Marco Polo R Timeline



| | days | distance | comment |
|--|------|------------------------------|---|
| SEP Approach (before stay at asteroid) | 120 | 1 million km - 100 000 km | |
| | 24 | 100 000 km - 4500 km | Slow approach used for asteroid detection |
| | 6 | 4500 km – 500km | Min. approach distance similar to Rosetta |
| Close Approach Trajectory | 6 | 500 km - 100 km | 4° full pictures of binary system |
| Transition to Global Mapping + binary system mapping | 15 | 100 km - 10 km | from ~50 km |
| Global Mapping + sensors/instrument calibration | 28 | 10 km | reimina |

Proposed Marco Polo R Timeline



| | days | distance | comment |
|---|------|------------|---|
| Global mapping / far global characterization | 21 | 5km | Duration = average Rosetta/Marco Polo |
| Global mapping /close global characterization | 14 | 1-2 km TBC | Closer global mapping |
| Detailed gravity mapping | 0 | 200 m | No dedicated radio science, done together with global observations |
| Local characterization | 35 | 100 m TBC | As Marco Polo |
| Landing | 35 | 0 | Marco Polo duration (70 days) was sized for 5 landing attempts, to be reduced |
| Additional science | 0 | | TBD as time available |
| Asteroid escape preparation | 7 | iminar | s per Marco Polo, SEP impact TBD |