



BepiColombo: Overview and latest updates

J. Benkhoff

ESA-ESTEC, Solar System Missions Division, Noordwijk, Netherlands (johannes.benkhoff@esa.int, +31 71-5654697)

BepiColombo is a joint project between ESA and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The Mission consists of two orbiters, the Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO). The mission scenario foresees a launch of both spacecraft with an ARIANE V. From their dedicated orbits the two spacecrafts will be studying the planet and its environment. The MPO scientific payload comprises eleven instruments/instrument packages; the MMO scientific payload consists of five instruments/instrument packages. Together, the scientific payload of both spacecraft will perform measurements to find clues to the origin and evolution of a planet close to its parent star. The presentation will try to show how BepiColombo can follow up on the new findings from MESSENGER. In addition the latest status of the BepiColombo mission will be given.