

In-situ Science on the surfaces of Ganymede and Europa with Penetrators

Robert Gowen¹, Alan Smith¹, Richard Ambrosi⁶, Olga Prieto Ballesteros¹⁶, Simeon Barber², Dave Barnes¹¹, Andrew Bowyer²³, Chris Braithwaite⁹, John Bridges⁶, Patrick Brown⁵, Phillip Church¹⁰, Glyn Collinson¹, Andrew Coates¹, Gareth Collins⁵, Ian Crawford³, Veronique Dehant²¹, Michele Dougherty⁵, Jeremy Fielding²², Julian Chela-Flores¹⁷, Dominic Fortes⁷, George Fraser⁶, Yang Gao⁴, Manuel Grande¹¹, Andrew Griffiths¹, Peter Grindrod⁷, Leonid Gurvits¹⁹, Axel Hagermann², Tim van Hoolst²¹, Hauke Hussmann¹³, Ralf Jaumann¹³, Adrian Jones⁷, Geraint Jones¹, Katherine Joy³, Ozgur Karatekin²¹, Günter Kargl²⁰, Antonella Macagnano¹⁴, Anisha Mukherjee⁵, Peter Muller¹, Ernesto Palomba¹², Andy Phipps²⁴, Tom Pike⁵, Bill Proud⁹, Derek Pullen⁶, Francois Raulin¹⁵, Lutz Richter¹⁸, Keith Ryden², Simon Sheridan², Mark Sims⁶, Frank Sohl¹³, Joshua Snape⁷, Paul Stevens¹⁰, Jon Sykes⁶, Vincent Tong³, Tim Stevenson⁶, Nigel Wells¹⁰, Lionel Wilson², Ian Wright², John Zarnecki².

1: Mullard Space Science Laboratory, University College London, UK., **2:** Planetary and Space Sciences Research Institute, Open University, UK. **3:** Birkbeck College, University of London, UK. **4:** Surrey Space Centre, Guildford, UK. **5:** Imperial College, London, UK. **6:** University of Leicester, UK. **7:** University College London, UK. **8:** University of Lancaster, UK. **9:** Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, UK. **10:** QinetiQ, **11:** University of Aberystwyth, UK. **12:** Istituto di Fisica dello Spazio Interplanetario-INAf, Roma, Italy. **13:** DLR, Berlin, Germany. **14:** Institute of Microelectronics and Microsystem -CNR, Roma, Italy. **15:** Université Paris, France. **16:** Centro de Astrobiología-INTA-CSIC, España. **17:** Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy. **18:** DLR, Bremen, Germany. **19:** Joint Institute for VLBI in Europe (JIVE), Dwingeloo, The Netherlands. **20:** IAF, Space Research Institute, Graz, Austria. **21:** Royal Observatory, Belgium **22:** Astrium, Stevenage, UK. **23:** Magna Parva, Loughborough, UK. **24:** SSTL, Guildford, Surrey, UK.

Abstract

For relatively low cost and mass, penetrators offer the ability to perform major science investigations in the near-surface regions of both Ganymede and Europa. Candidate investigations include the determination of global geophysical parameters, in-situ astrobiological observations, and local geochemical studies. In addition, near-surface measurements would provide significant synergy with, and ground truth for, orbital observations.

We discuss the scientific objectives linked to the measurements to be made by the candidate penetrator instruments, preceded by an introduction to the architecture which delivers them to just beneath the planetary surfaces.

Finally, we present the current status of the penetrator consortium; its study program for the selection of a strawman payload for the proposed EJSN mission, and some architectural trades.

This follows the recent submission (May'09) by the penetrator consortium, of a DOI (Declaration of Interest) which proposes penetrators for both ESA JGO (Jupiter Ganymede Orbiter) and NASA JEO (Jupiter Europa Orbiter) for EJSN.