



Riding EPOXI at Comet Hartley 2

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Abstract

Development of the technology for “Eyes on the Solar System” [1] has enabled a new generation of interactive browser based 3D applications to be rapidly developed for targeted projects on a mission by mission basis. One example of this is for part of Deep Impact’s EPOXI extended mission, a flyby of Comet Hartley 2 in November 2010.

Within a web browser users will be able to view the trajectory of the spacecraft and the comet, see the fields of view of the science instruments and ride onboard the spacecraft during closest approach in a way that will uniquely demonstrate the extremes of both speed and accuracy such a flyby demands.

SPICE kernels for both the spacecraft and the comet will be delivered by the project during approach so the interactive experience will be as close to real time and as accurate as possible making this a first-of-akind experience applicable to both home users and public visitor attracts such as planetaria.

This work is being conducted by the Visualization Technology Applications and Development Group at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the same team responsible for “Eyes on the Earth 3D,” which can be viewed at climate.nasa.gov/eyes.html

References

[1] K. J. Hussey, EPSC2010