

Updated status and science goals of the BepiColombo mission

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The ESA-JAXA joint mission BepiColombo is now on the track to Mercury. Two spacecraft for BepiColombo, "MIO" (Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter: MMO) and "Bepi" (Mercury Planetary Orbiter: MPO), were launched by Ariane-5 launch vehicle from Kourou in French Guiana on 20 October 2018. During the cruise to Mercury, in addition to two spacecraft MMO Sunshield and Interface Structure (MOSIF) and Mercury Transfer Module (MTM) are all integrated together. The critical phase just after launch and the near Earth commissioning phase were successfully finished in end of 2018, and the first electrical propulsion started from December 2018. The next activities are delta commissioning of high voltage instruments in mid 2019, and the first flyby around the Earth in April 2020. Here we report the updated status of BepiColombo mission and the overview of its science goals.