

Astrochemistry and Astrobiology of the Small Bodies in the Solar System

- *The challenges of the Rosetta mission*
- *The astrobiological legacy of Rosetta*
- *Astrochemistry of the small bodies of the Solar System*
 - *Astrobiology challenged by Astrobiowashing*

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@hcottin

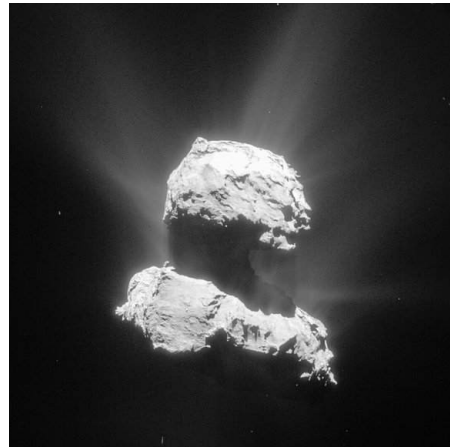


herve.cottin@lisa.ipsl.fr



UNIVERSITÉ
PARIS-EST CRÉTEIL
VAL DE MARNE

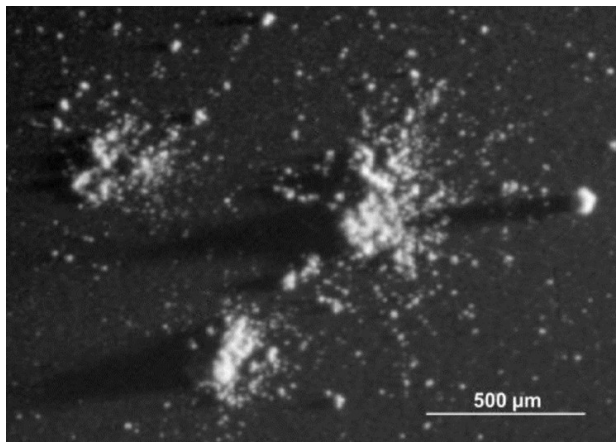
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des Systèmes Atmosphériques



The challenges of the Rosetta mission

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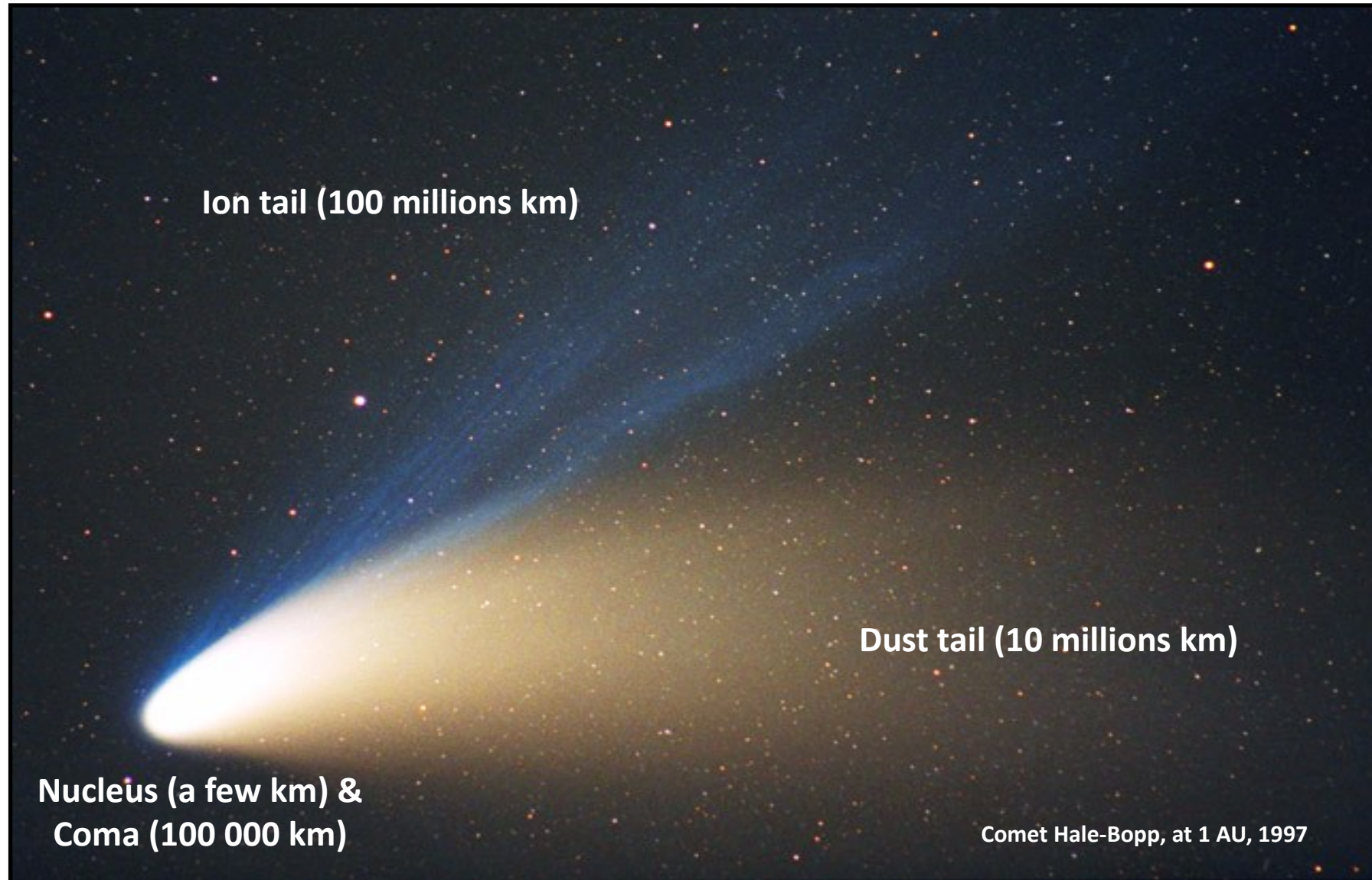
herve.cottin@lisa.ipsl.fr



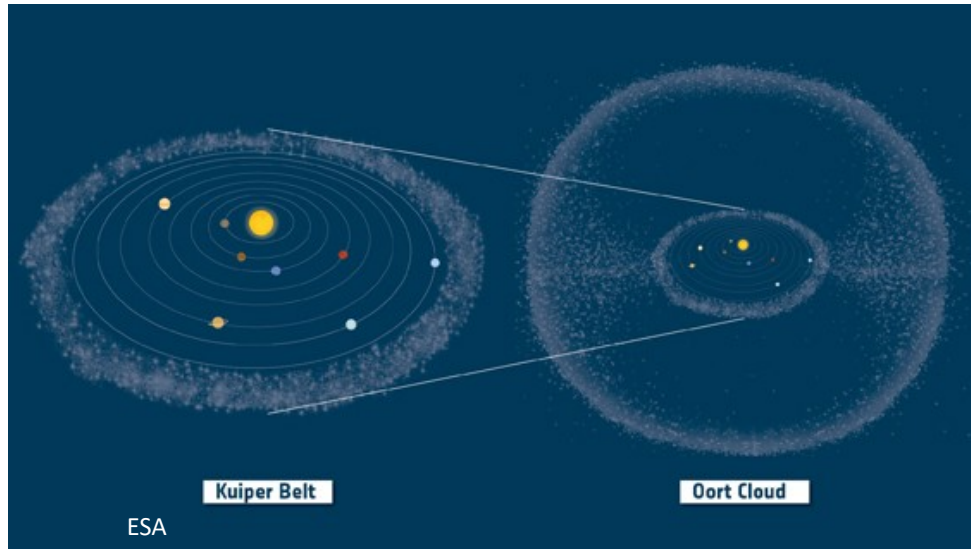
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What is a comet ?

A small body of the Solar System
made of ices and dust



Where do they come from ?



Two main reservoirs

The Kuiper Belt

The Oort Cloud

An excentric orbit

For 67 P

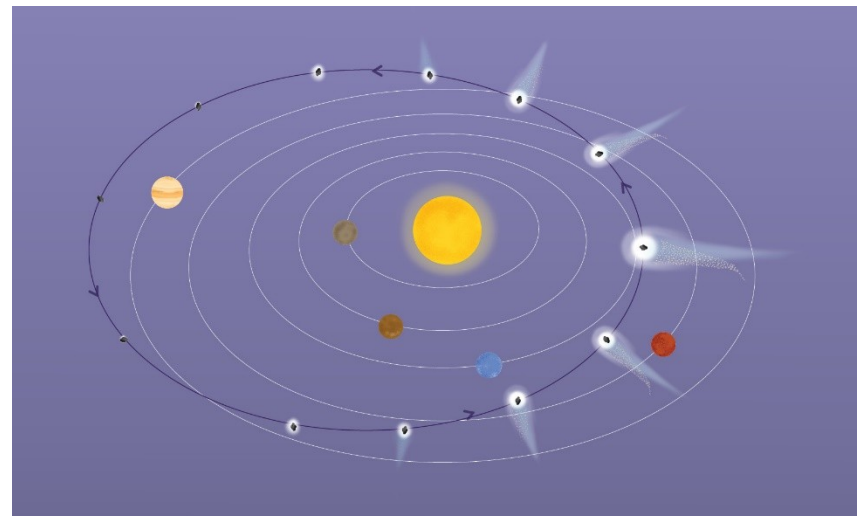
Perihelion : 1,2432 au

Aphelion : 5,6829 au

Orbit : 6,44 y

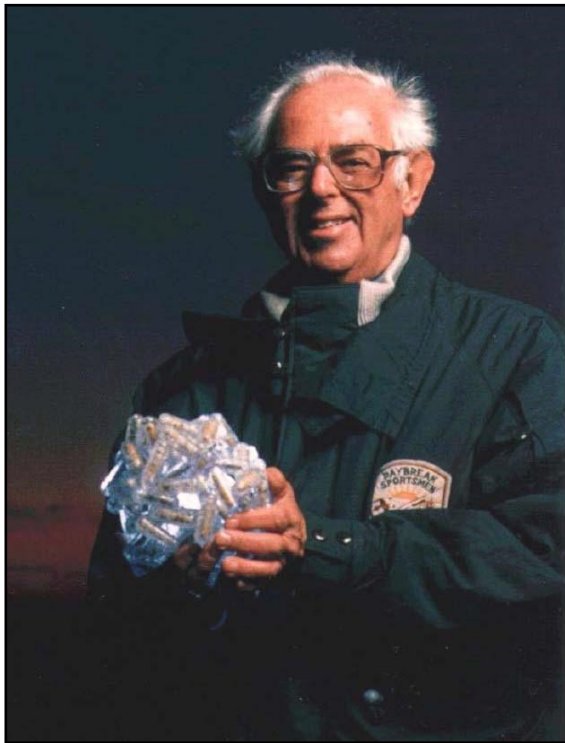
au : astronomical unit

Sun-Earth distance: $150 \cdot 10^6$ km



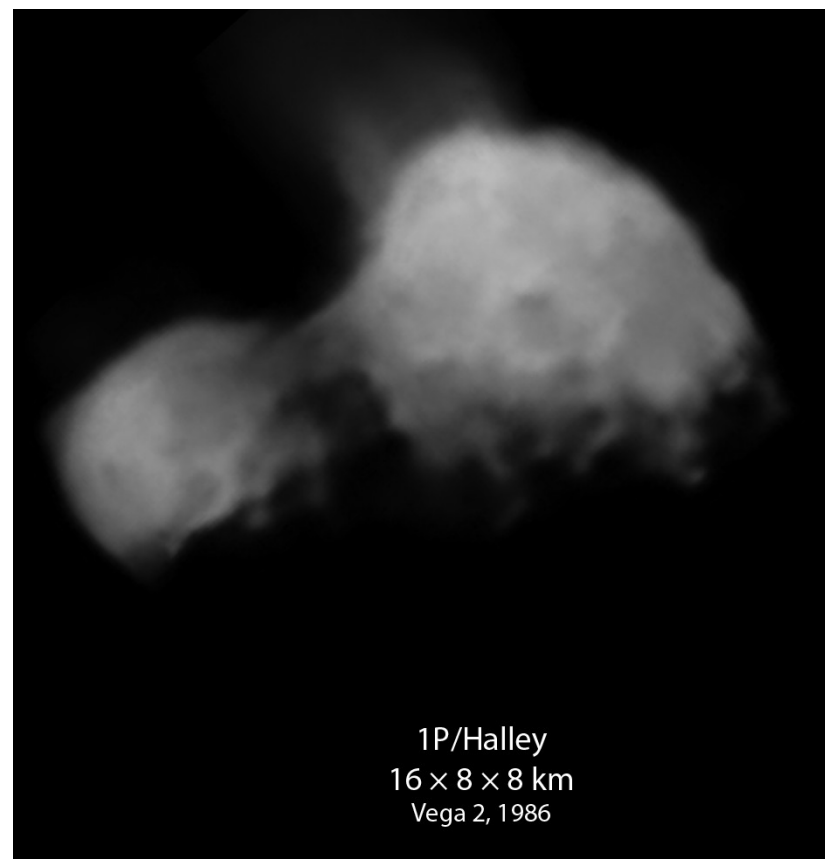
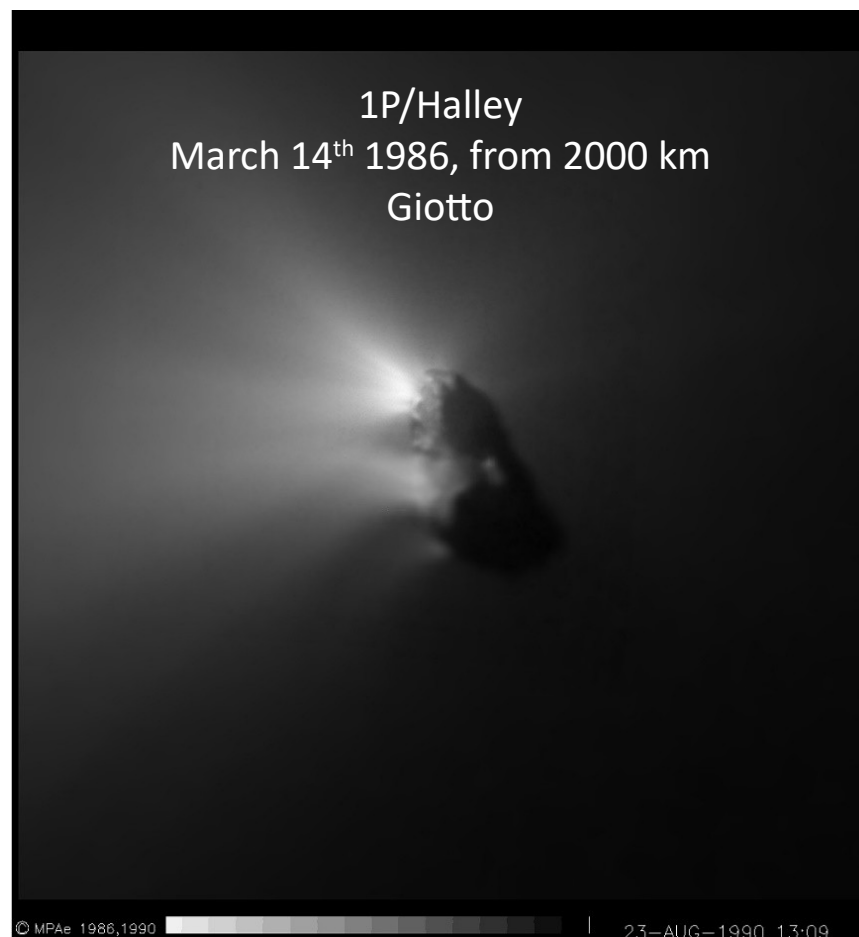
Making a comet nucleus

A dusty snowball ?
(Whipple, 1950)

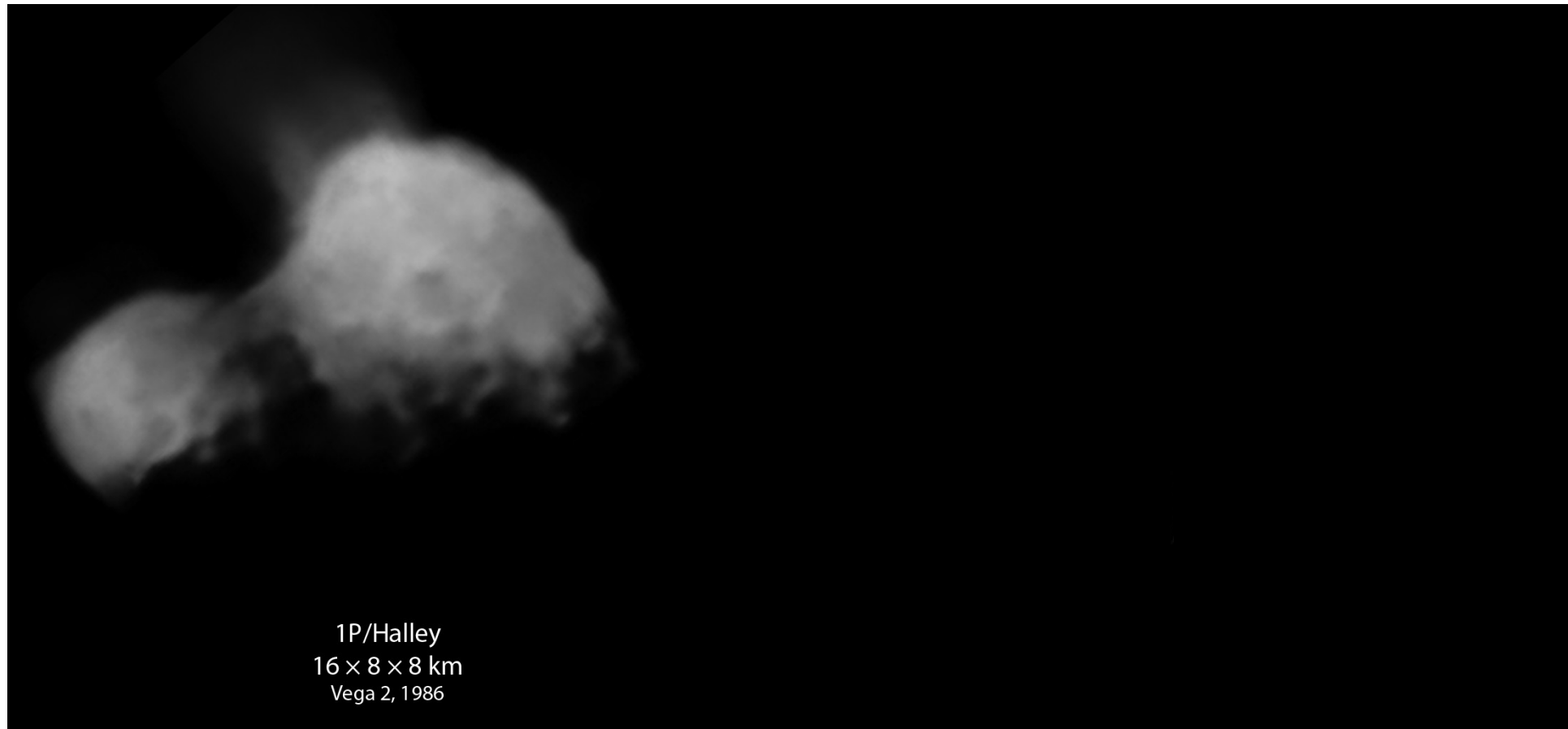


An interstellar aggregate ?
(Greenberg, 1982)

What do they look like ?



What do they look like ?

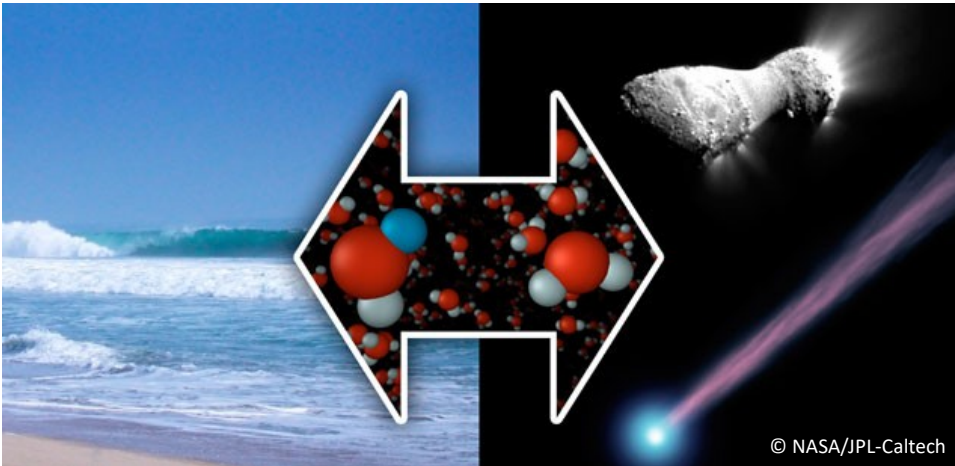


1P/Halley
 $16 \times 8 \times 8$ km
Vega 2, 1986

Why study comets ?

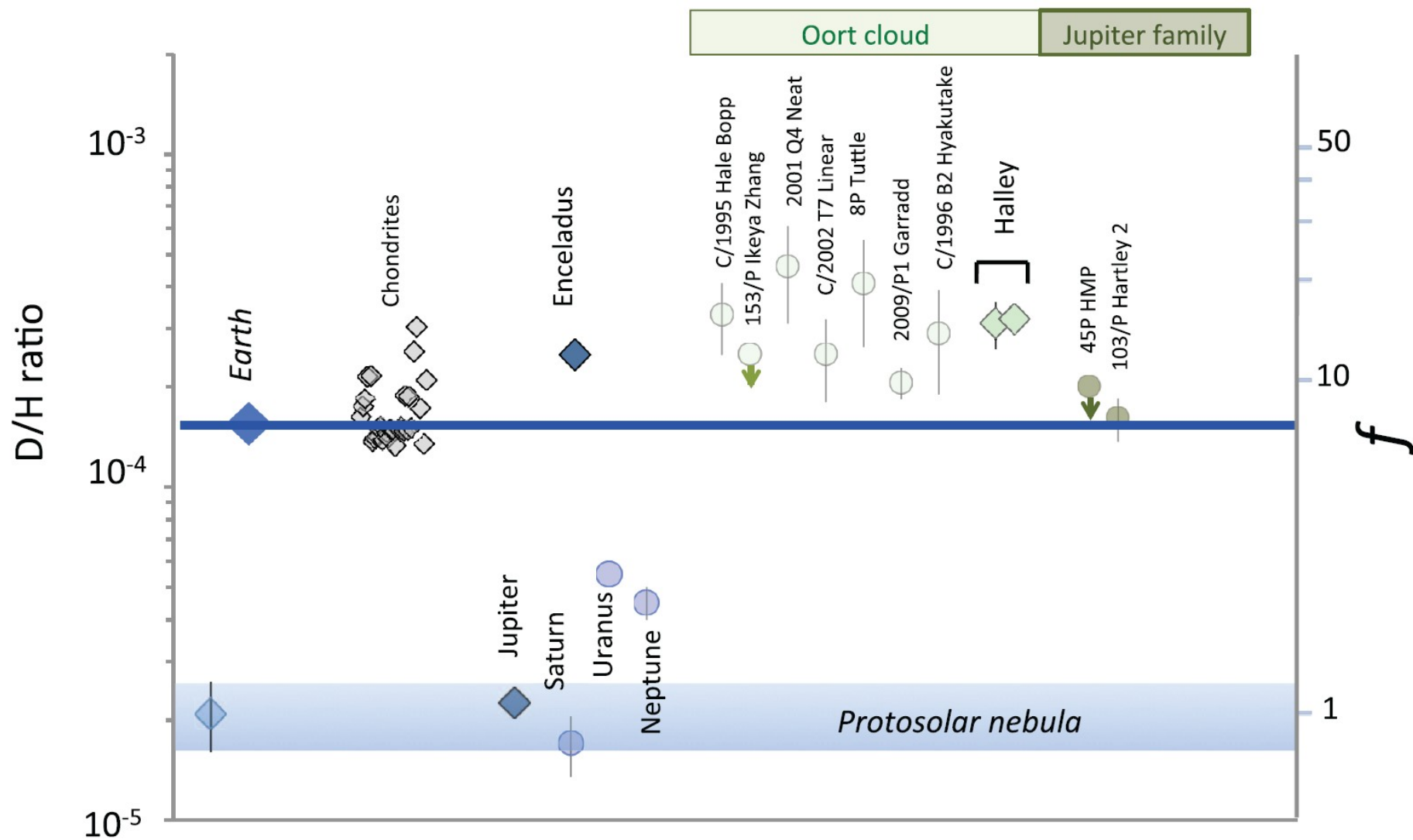


A reservoir of
primitive material

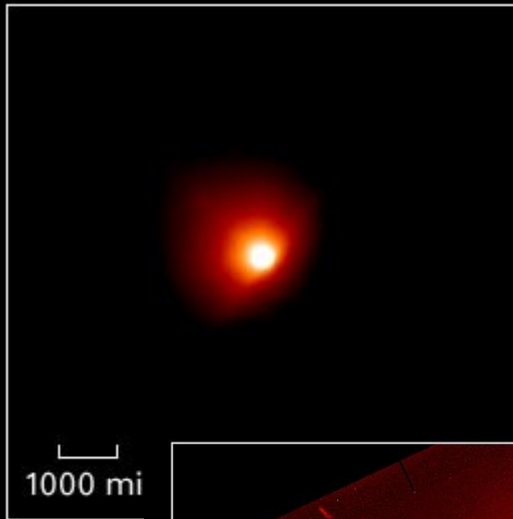


A role in the origin of life ?
(water and organic compounds)

Why study comets ?



July 5, 2000

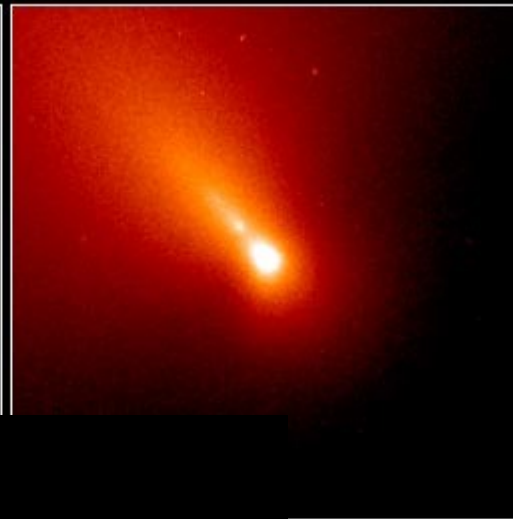


Comet LINEAR
NASA and University of Hawaii

July 6, 2000



July 7, 2000



HST • STIS

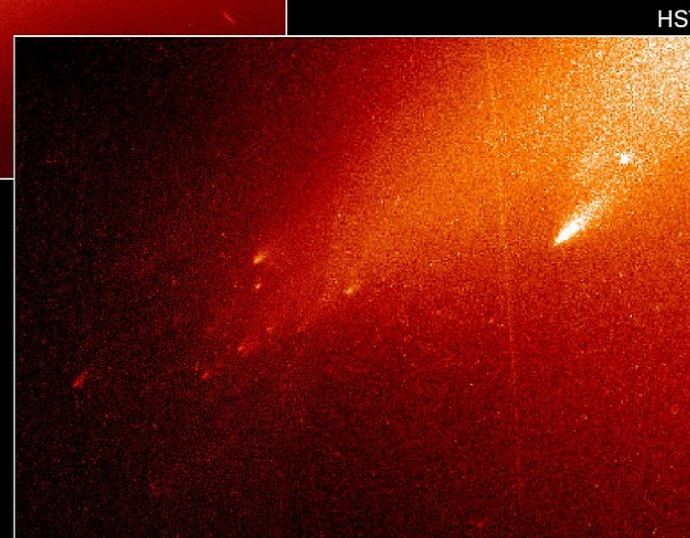


Comet LINEAR
Fragments
August 5, 2000

University of Hawaii

Hubble Space Telescope
WFPC2

NASA and H. Weaver (Johns Hopkins University)
STScI-PRC00-27



HST





Comet Mc Naught
01/2007



Comet C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE) , 12 Juillet 2020 © THIERRY LEGAULT

Deciding ROSETTA

After the surprises by Halley's Comet, the logical step for NASA and ESA is to bring back a cometary sample for analysis on Earth.



1986-1992 CNSR Mission(*Comet Nucleus Sample Return*) : NASA / ESA



NASA withdraw: sample return impossible.
Laboratory to the comet instead!

1993 ROSETTA mission : ESA



2 landers

Champollion (JPL/CNES)

Roland (MP + DLR)



JPL withdraw
in 1994

Philae (DLR/CNES/ASI)

Deciding ROSETTA

Launch initially planned for January 2003

Target: comet 46P/Wirtanen (~700 m)

But the failure of a launch of the Ariane 5 rocket on December 11, 2002 postponed the launch and led to a change of target.

Launched March 2, 2004

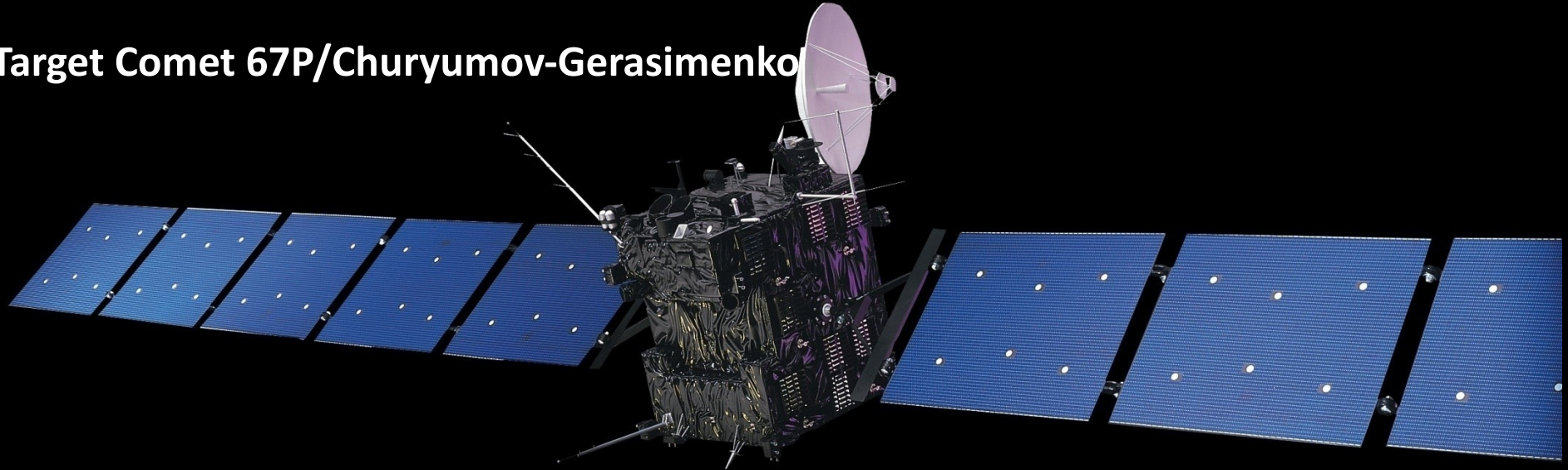
New target:
comet
67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko
(~4km
30 times more massive than 46P)



Rosetta: Outlooks

Launch : March 2nd, 2004

Target Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko



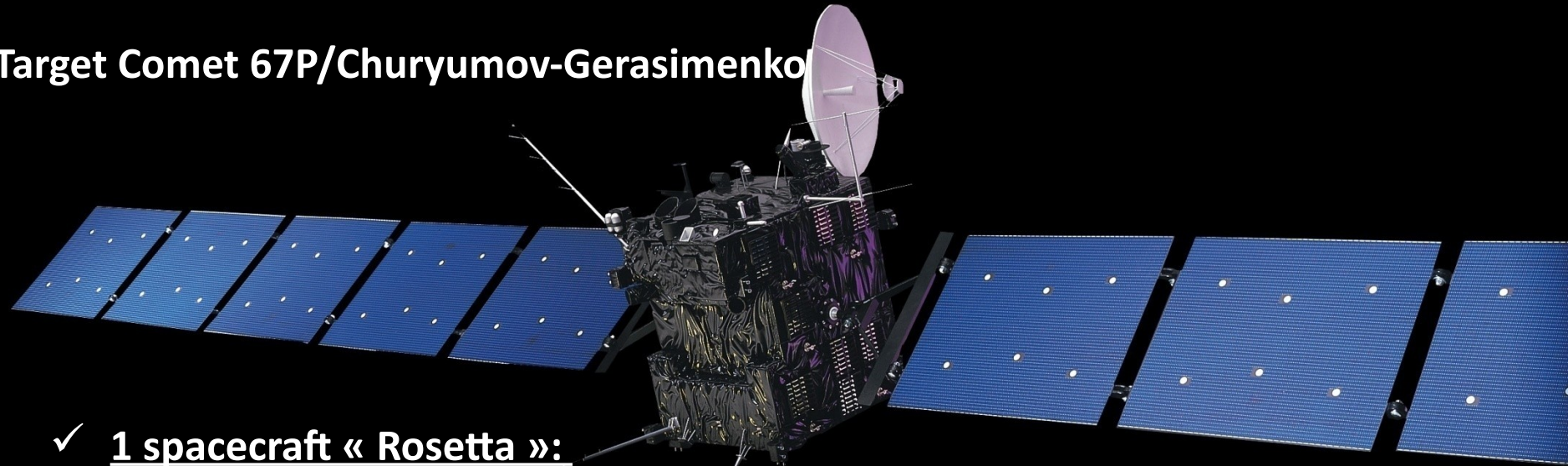
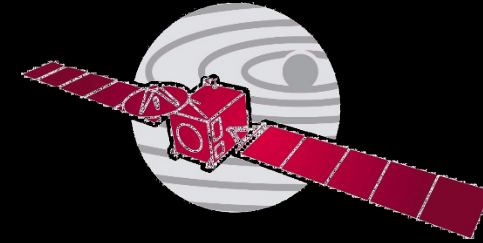
- ✓ 1st spacecraft « orbiting » around a comet
- ✓ 1st in-situ analyses of a comet beyond 2 AU
- ✓ 1st landing on a cometary nucleus

⇒ A tremendously ambitious mission

Rosetta: Outlooks

Launch : March 2nd, 2004

Target Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko



- ✓ 1 spacecraft « Rosetta »:
 - ✓ 2.8 x 2.1 x 2 m + 2 solar pannels of 15 m (64 m²)
 - ✓ 2 970 kg (1 300 kg without fuel)
 - ✓ 11 instruments (165 kg)

- ✓ 1 lander « Philae »:
 - ✓ 1 x 1 x 0.8 m
 - ✓ 100 kg
 - ✓ 10 instruments (21 kg)

INSTRUMENTS onboard ROSETTA spacecraft

Bring the lab to the comet !

UV, Vis, IR, Radio spectrometers

AFM

Cameras

Radar

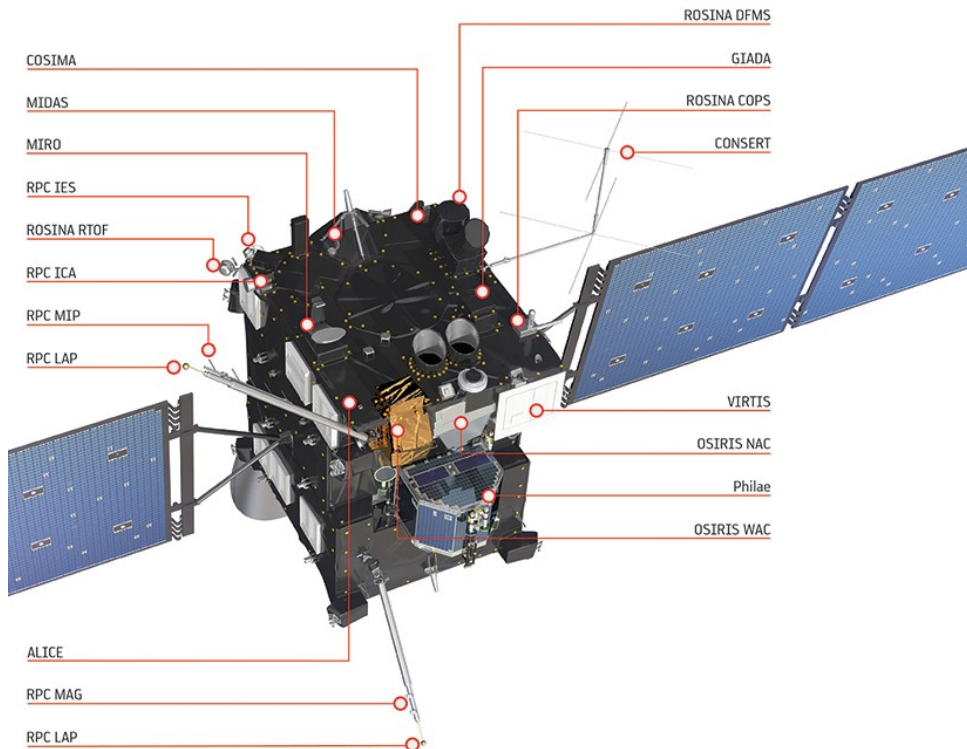
Mass spectrometers....

All instruments must be :

- Small
- Light
- Low power consumption
- Reliable after launch (vibrations and chocks), 10 years in space (cold, radiations), can't be fixed if broken !
- And ready for unexpected things



Instruments	
ALICE	UV Spectrometer (70nm-205nm)
CONCERT	COmet Nucleus Sounding Experiment by Radiowave Transmission
COSIMA	COmetary Secondary Ion Mass Analyser
GIADA	Grain Impact Analyser and Dust Accumulator
MIDAS	Micro-Imaging Dust Analysis System
MIRO	Microwave Instrument for the Rosetta Orbiter
OSIRIS	the Optical Spectroscopic and Infrared Remote Imaging System
ROSINA	Rosetta Orbiter Spectrometer for Ion and Neutral Analysis
RPC	The Rosetta Plasma Consortium : - Langmuir Probe (LAP) - Ion and Electron Sensor (IES) - Flux Gate Magnetometer (MAG) - Ion Composition analyser (ICA) - Mutual Impedance Probe (MIP) - Plasma Interface Experiment (PIU)
RSI	Radio Science Experiment
VIRTIS	Visual IR thermal Imaging spectrometer



Virtis main characteristics and requirements

	VIRTIS-M Visible	VIRTIS-M InfraRed	VIRTIS-H
Spectral Range (nm)	220.1–1046.0	952.8–5059.2	Order 0 4.05–5.03 Order 1 3.47–4.32 Order 2 3.04–3.78 Order 3 2.70–3.37 Order 4 2.43–3.03 Order 5 2.21–2.76 Order 6 2.03–2.53 Order 7 1.88–2.33
Spectral Resolution $\lambda/\Delta\lambda$	100–380	70–360	1300–3000
Spectral Sampling (nm) (1)	1.89	9.44	0.6
Field of View (mrad × mrad)	63.6 (slit) × 64.2 (scan)	63.6 (slit) × 64.2 (scan)	0.49 × 1.47
Max Spatial Resolution (μrad)	248.6 (slit) × 250.8 (scan)		

Spectroscopy

✓ Ultraviolet : ALICE

-- 70-205 nm

✓ Visible : OSIRIS

-- NAC – 250 – 1000 nm (12 filtres)

-- WAC – 240-720 nm (14 filtres)

✓ Infrarouge : VIRTIS

-- plusieurs canaux 0.25 – 5 μm

✓ Mm & sub-mm : MIRO

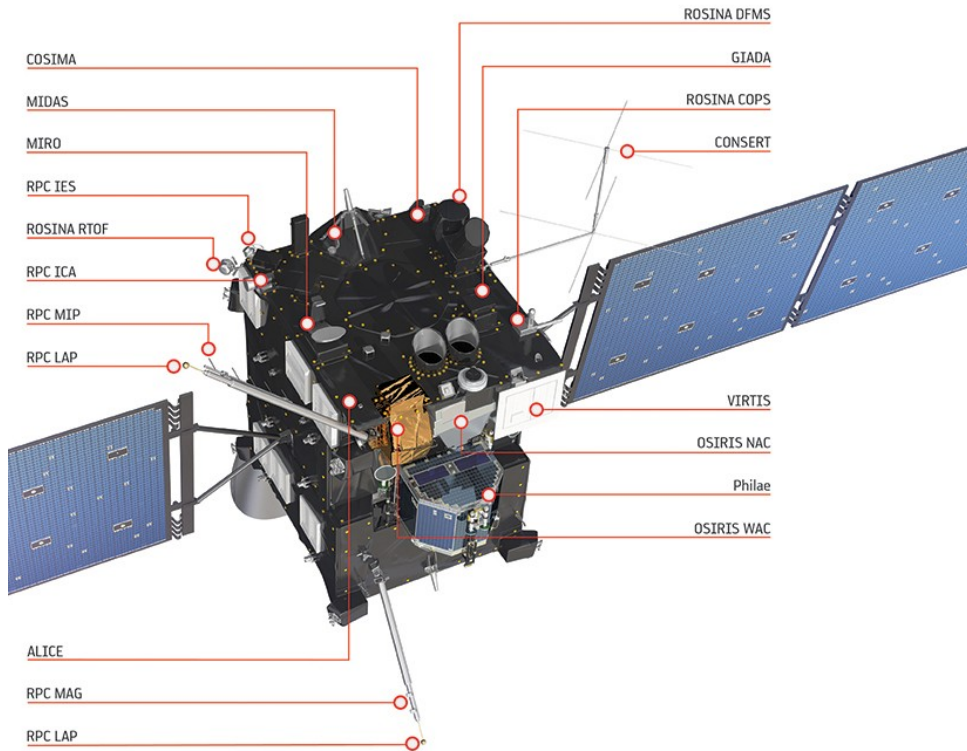
-- 188 Ghz (1.6 mm) (continuum data only)

-- 562 Ghz (0.5 mm) (continuum & high resolution)

TABLE I

Rosetta-ALICE characteristics, spacecraft resource requirements, and measured performance summary (Ground cal and Flight results)

Parameter	Proposed/Specified performance	Measured performance
Passband:	700–2050 Å	680–2060 Å (Flight)
Spectral	4–8 Å (point source)	4–8 Å (Ground Cal); 4–9 Å (Flight)
Resolution:	10–12 Å (extended source)	8–12 Å (Ground Cal and Flight)
Spatial resolution:	0.05° × 0.6° (Nyquist sampled)	0.05° × 0.6° (Nyquist sampled)
Active FOV:	0.1° × 6.0° (Proposed FOV)	0.05° × 2.0° + 0.1° × 2.0° + 0.1° × 1.5° (final design)



Imaging & spatial resolution

✓ OSIRIS :

WAC 5 m.pixel^{-1} à 100 km

NAC $1.86 \text{ m.pixel}^{-1}$ à 100 km

✓ COSIMA :

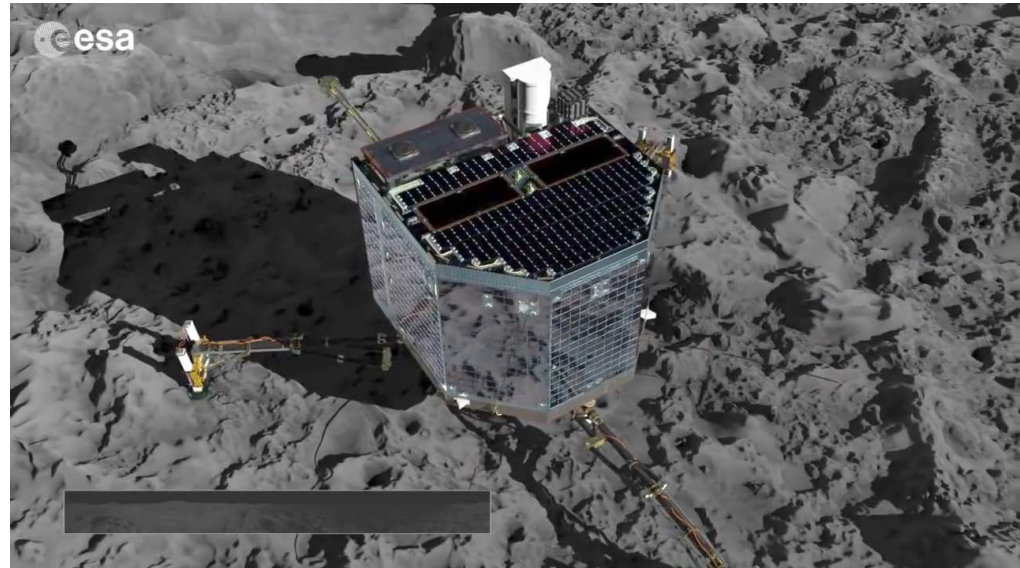
$14 \text{ }\mu\text{m.pixel}^{-1}$

✓ MIDAS :

4 nm.pixel^{-1}

INSTRUMENTS onboard PHILAE lander

Instruments	
APXS	Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer
CIVA	Panoramic Camera & IR microscope
CONSERT	Comet nucleus sounding
COSAC	Evolved Gas Analyser : elemental and molecular composition
MUPUS	Multi-Purpose Sensors for Surface and Subsurface Science
PTOLEMY	Evolved Gas Analyser : isotopic composition
ROLIS	Rosetta Lander Imaging System
ROMAP	Rosetta Lander Magnetometer and Plasma Monitor
SESAME	Surface Electrical, Seismic and Acoustic Monitoring Experiments
SD-2	Sample and Distribution Device

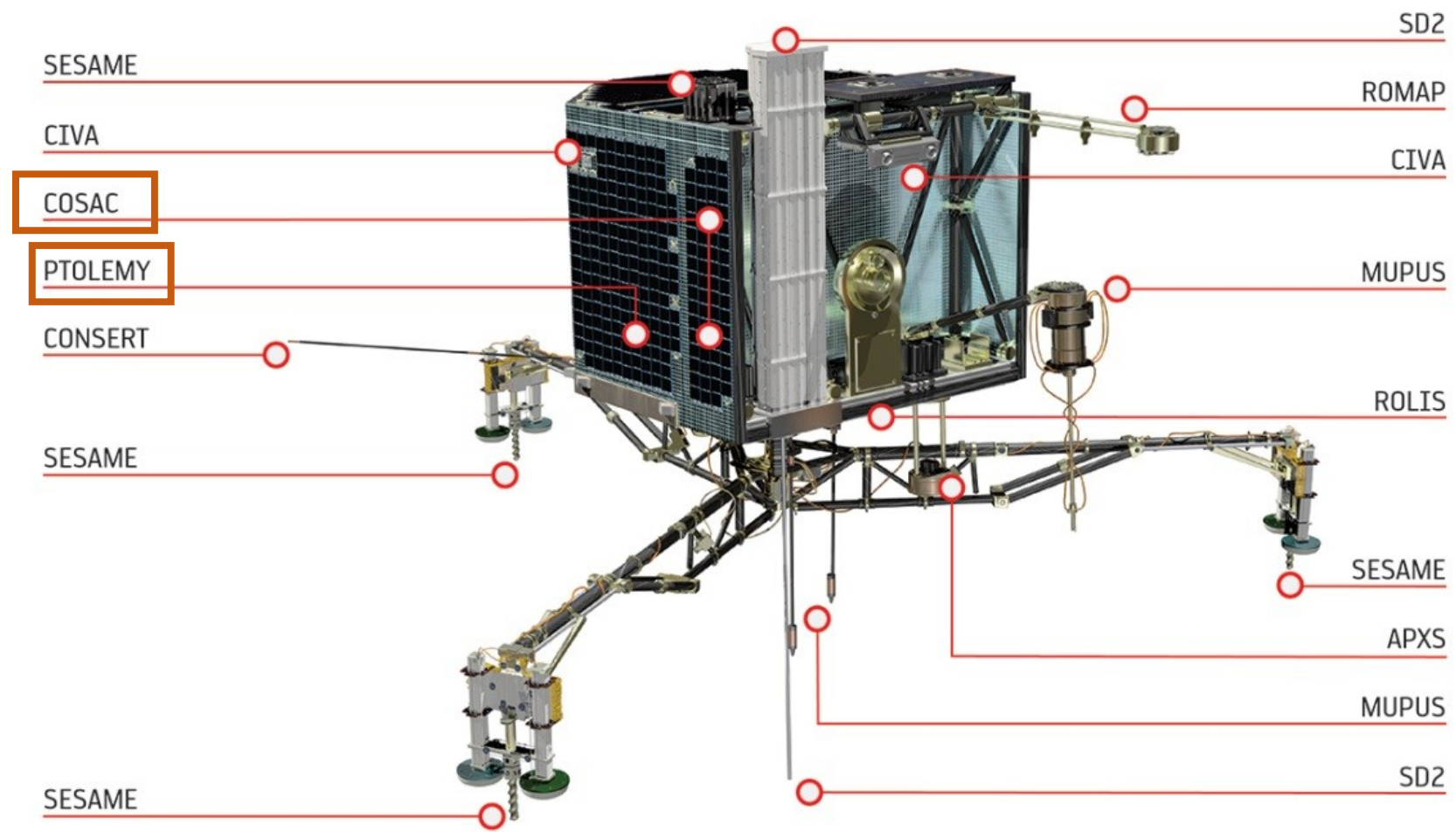


A race against time

SDL : Separation, Descent, Landing
Nov 12th, 7h from 22.5 km to comet

FSS : First Science Sequence : 2.25 days
(50 to 56h)

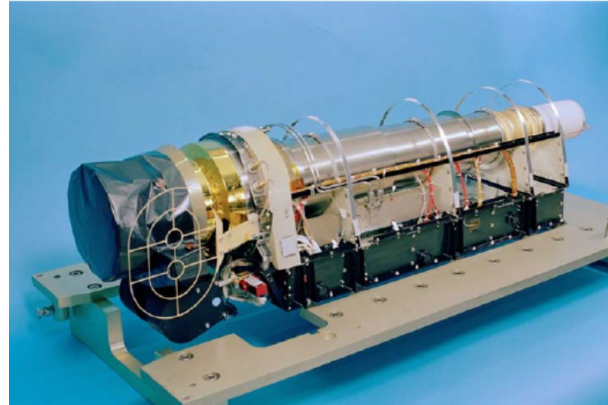
LTS : Long Term Sequence : mid Nov
2014- March 2015



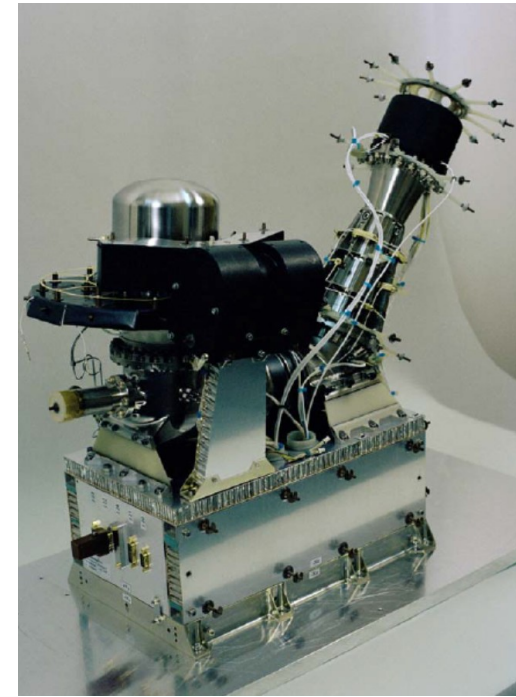
5 mass spectrometers at the comet



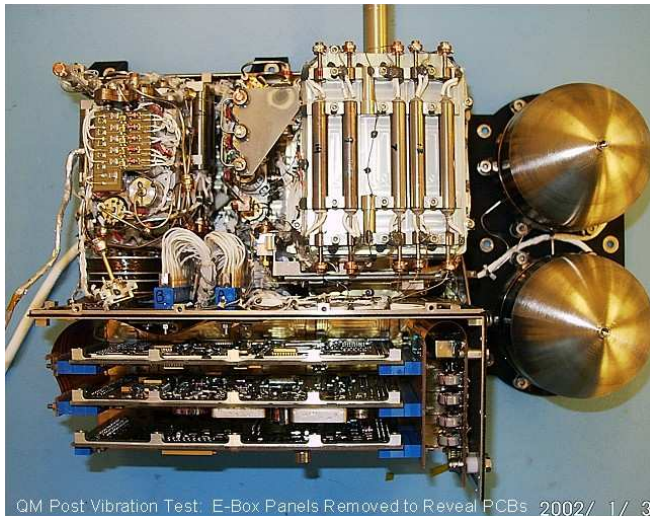
COSIMA (TOF-SIMS)



ROSINA RTOF



ROSINA DFMS



PTOLEMY
(GC - Ion Trap)



COSAC
(GC - TOF)

Mass spectrometers at the comet

	Instrument	Instrument Characteristics				
		Sample	Ionisation	Analyseur	Resolution	Mass Range (Da)
Rosetta	COSIMA	Particles	SIMS	RTOF	1200 FWHM at 100 Da	1-3500
	ROSINA	Gas	EI	DFMS	3000 at 1%	12-150
				RTOF	500 à 1%	1->300
Philae	COSAC	Nucleus + Gas	EI	Linear TOF	350 at 70	1-1500
	PTOLEMY	Nucleus + Gas	Field Effect	Ion Trap	70 FWHM at mass 44	12-150

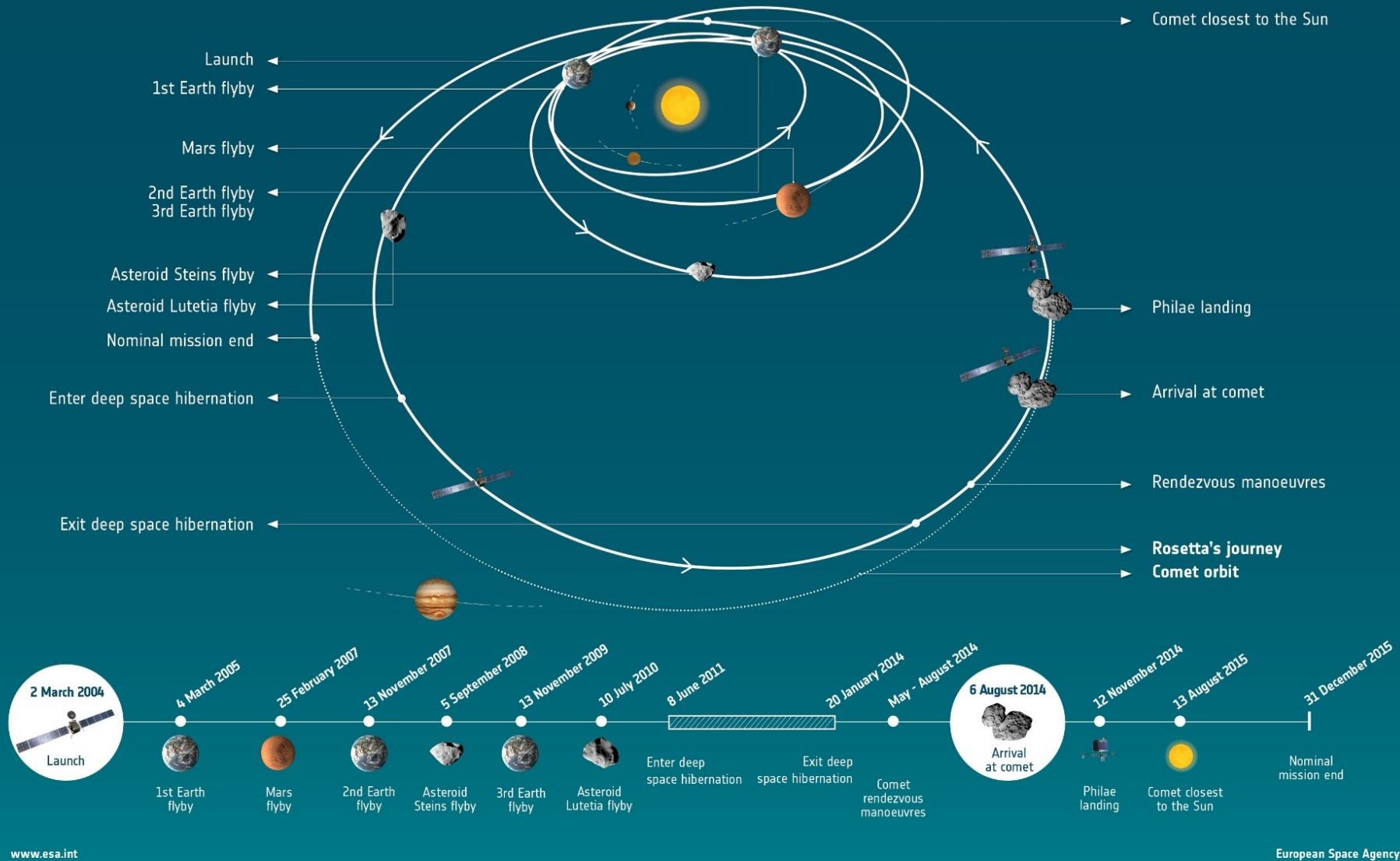
Balsiger, H. et al. *Rosina – Rosetta Orbiter Spectrometer for Ion and Neutral Analysis*. *Space Science Reviews* 128, 745-801 (2007).

Goesmann, F. et al. *Cosac, The Cometary Sampling and Composition Experiment on Philae*. *Space Science Reviews* 128, 257-280 (2007).

Kissel, J. et al. *COSIMA, a High Resolution Time of Flight Spectrometer for Secondary Ion Mass Spectroscopy of Cometary Dust Particles*. *Space Science Reviews* 128, 823-867 (2007).

Wright, I. P. et al. *Ptolemy – an Instrument to Measure Stable Isotopic Ratios of Key Volatiles on a Cometary Nucleus*. *Space Science Reviews* 128, 363-381, (2007).

→ ROSETTA'S JOURNEY



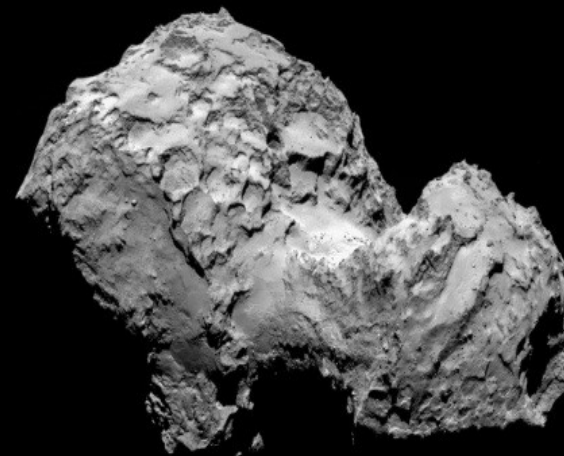
End of mission : September 30th 2016



June 28th 2014
86 000 km



July 14th 2014
12 000 km



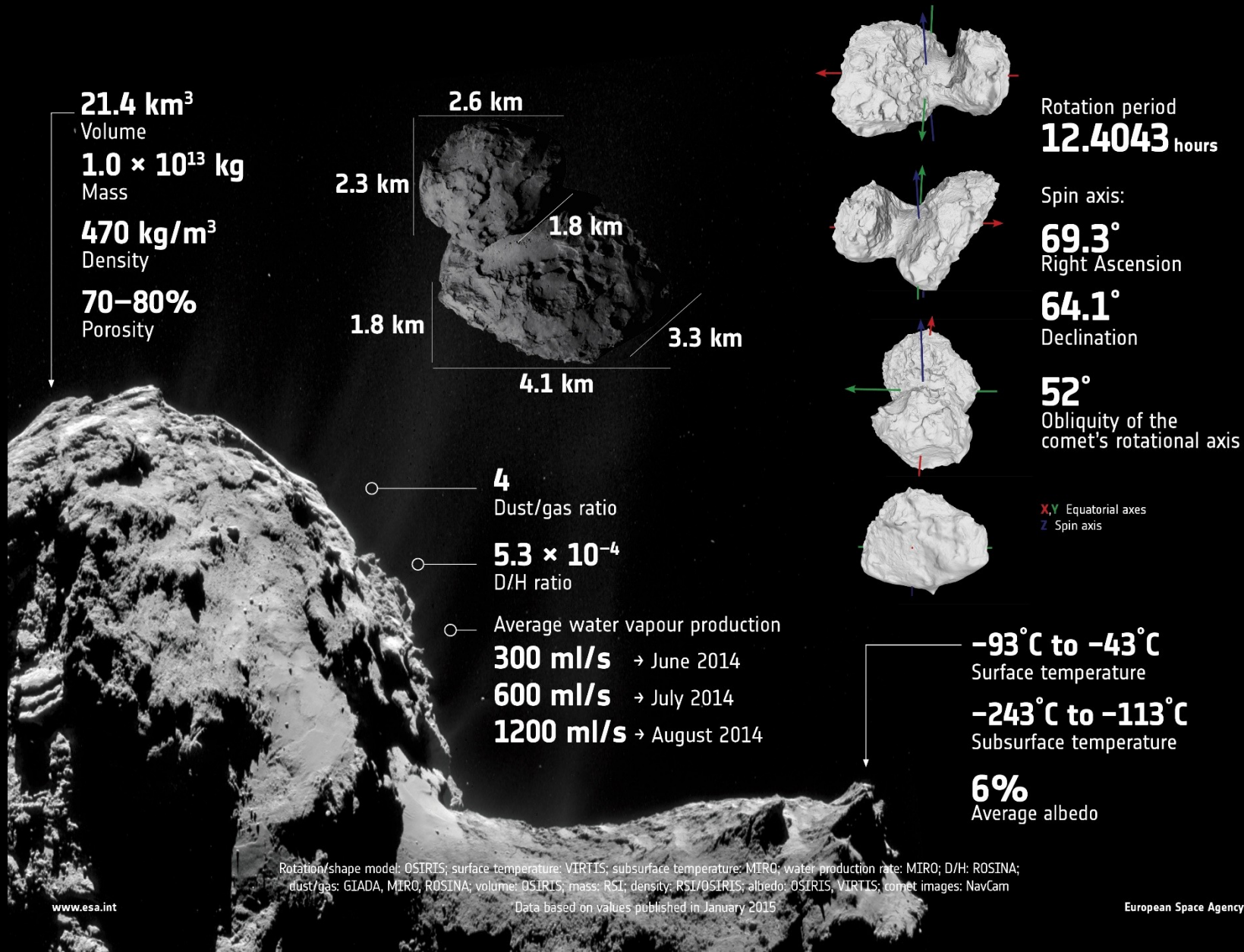
August 3th 2014
285 km



August 18th 2016
6 km

Credits: ESA/Rosetta/MPS for OSIRIS Team
MPS/UPD/LAM/IAA/SSO/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA

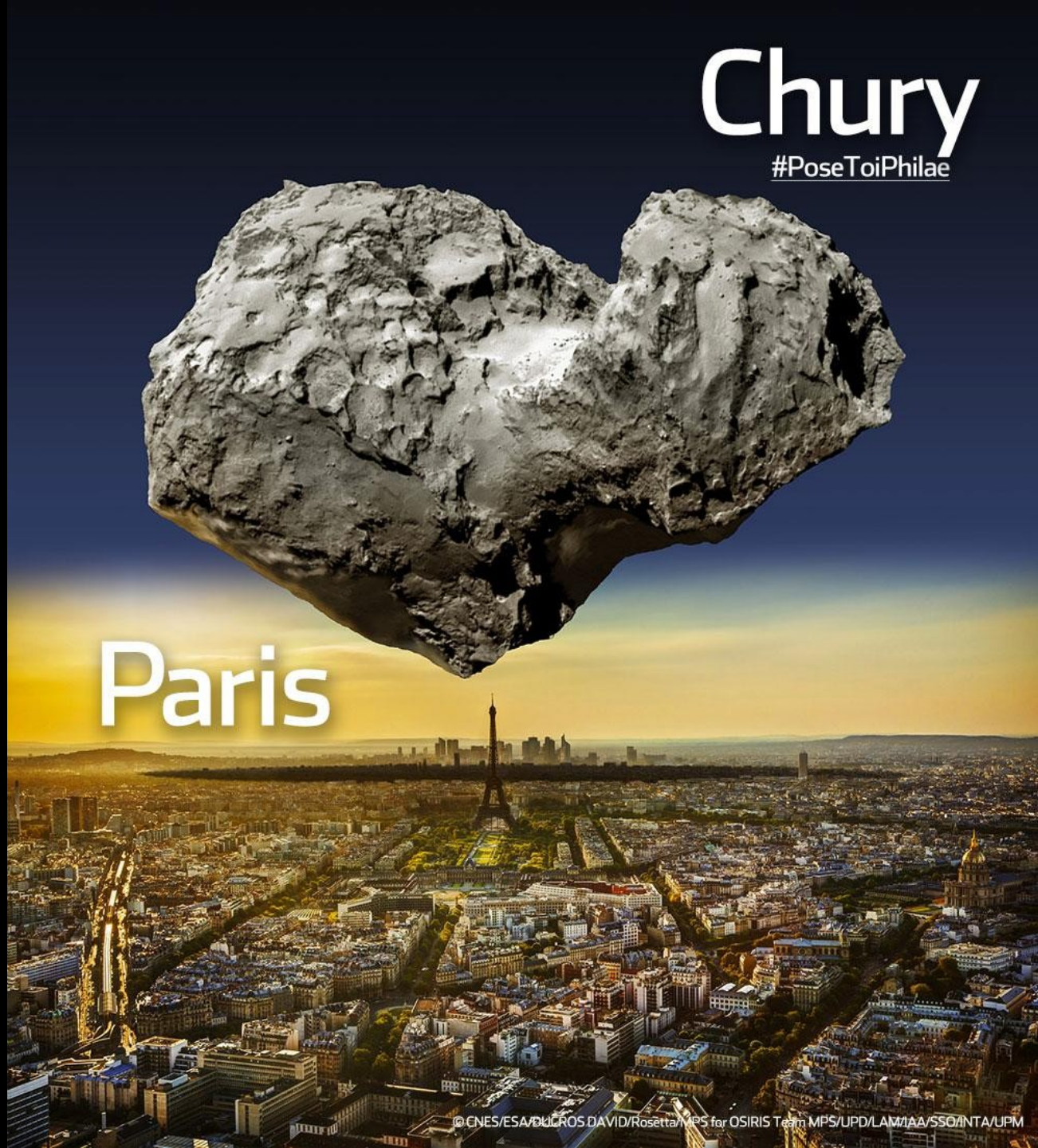
→ COMET 67P/CHURYUMOV–GERASIMENKO'S VITAL STATISTICS

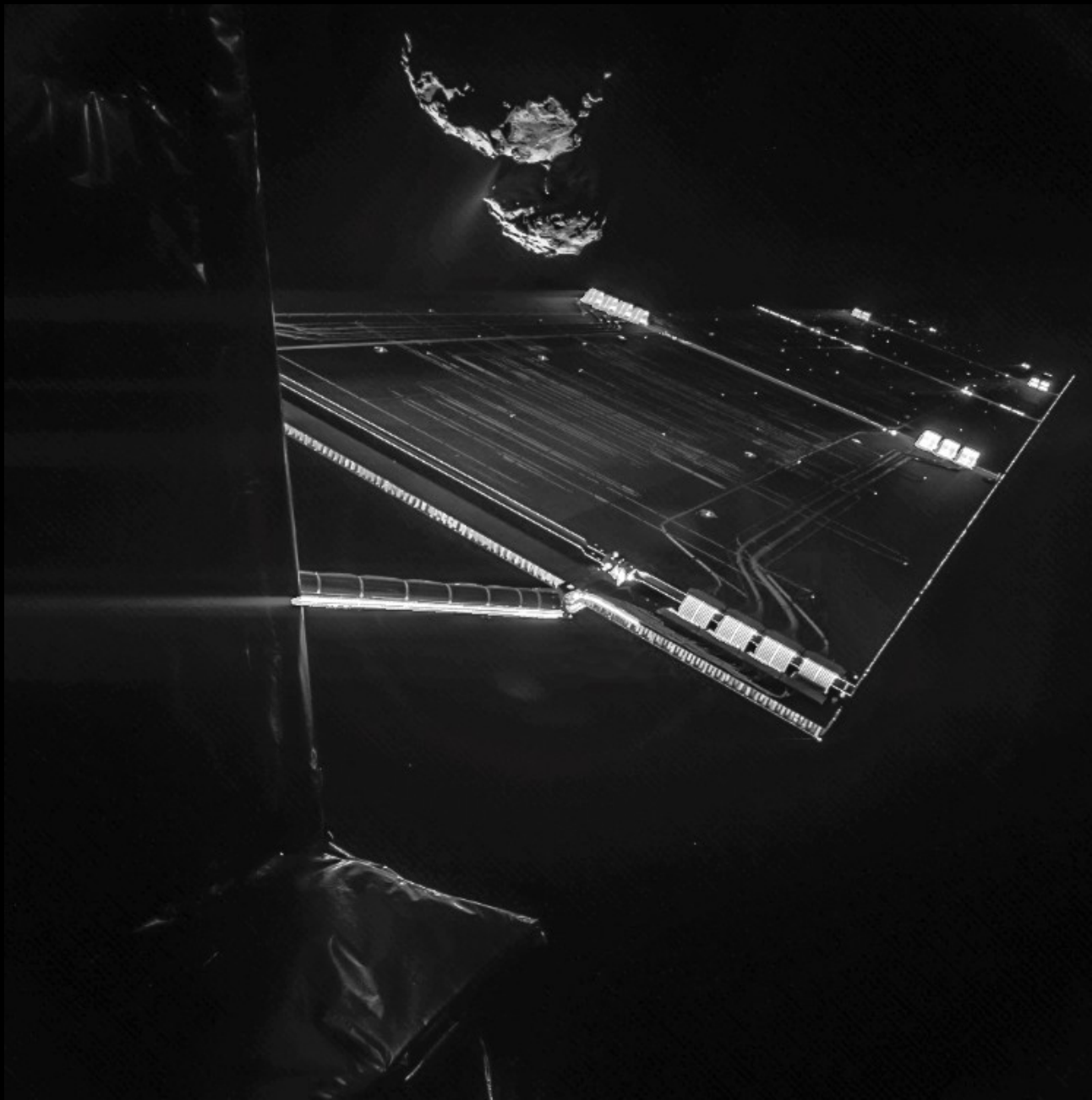


Chury

#PoseToiPhilae

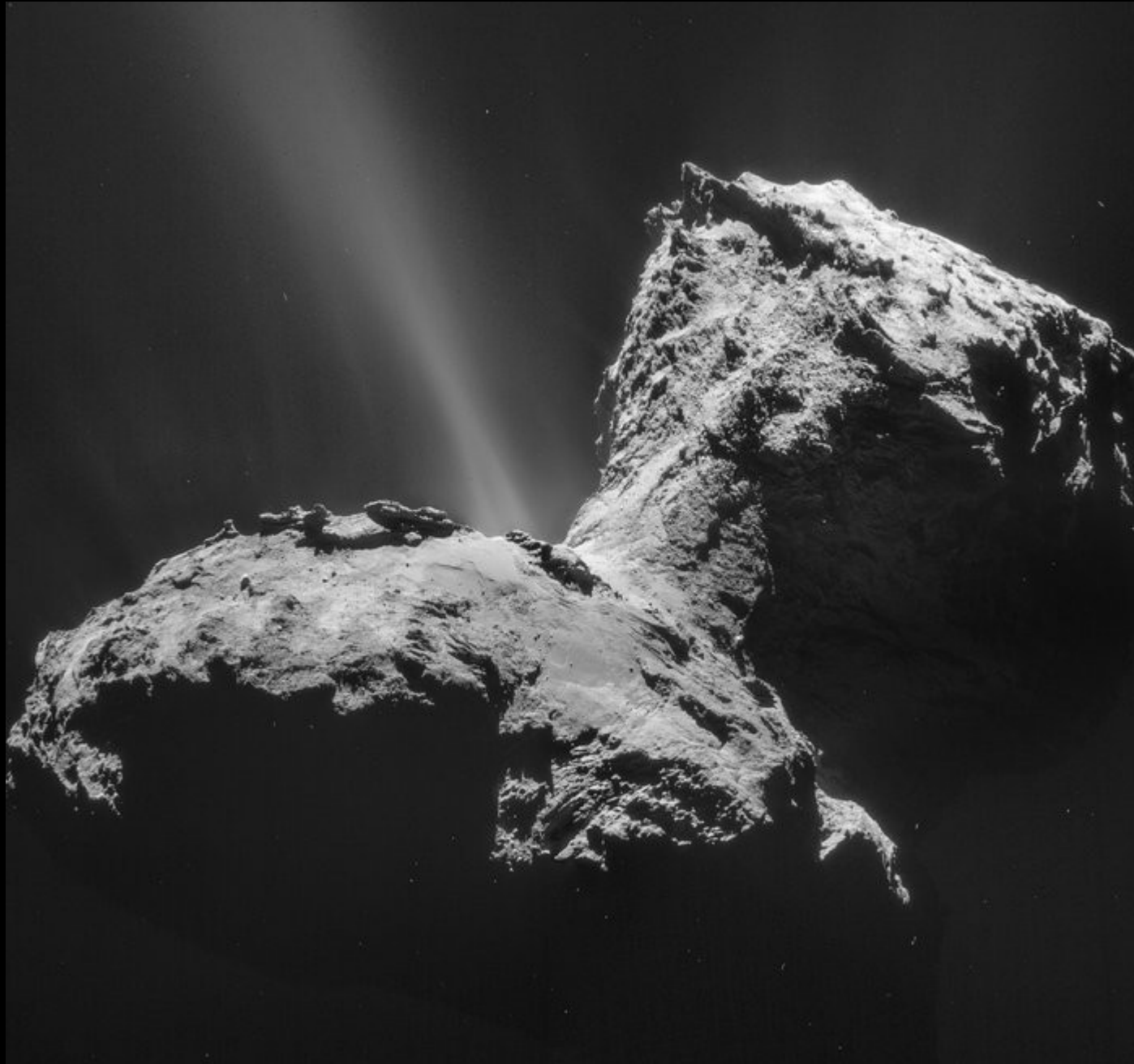
Paris



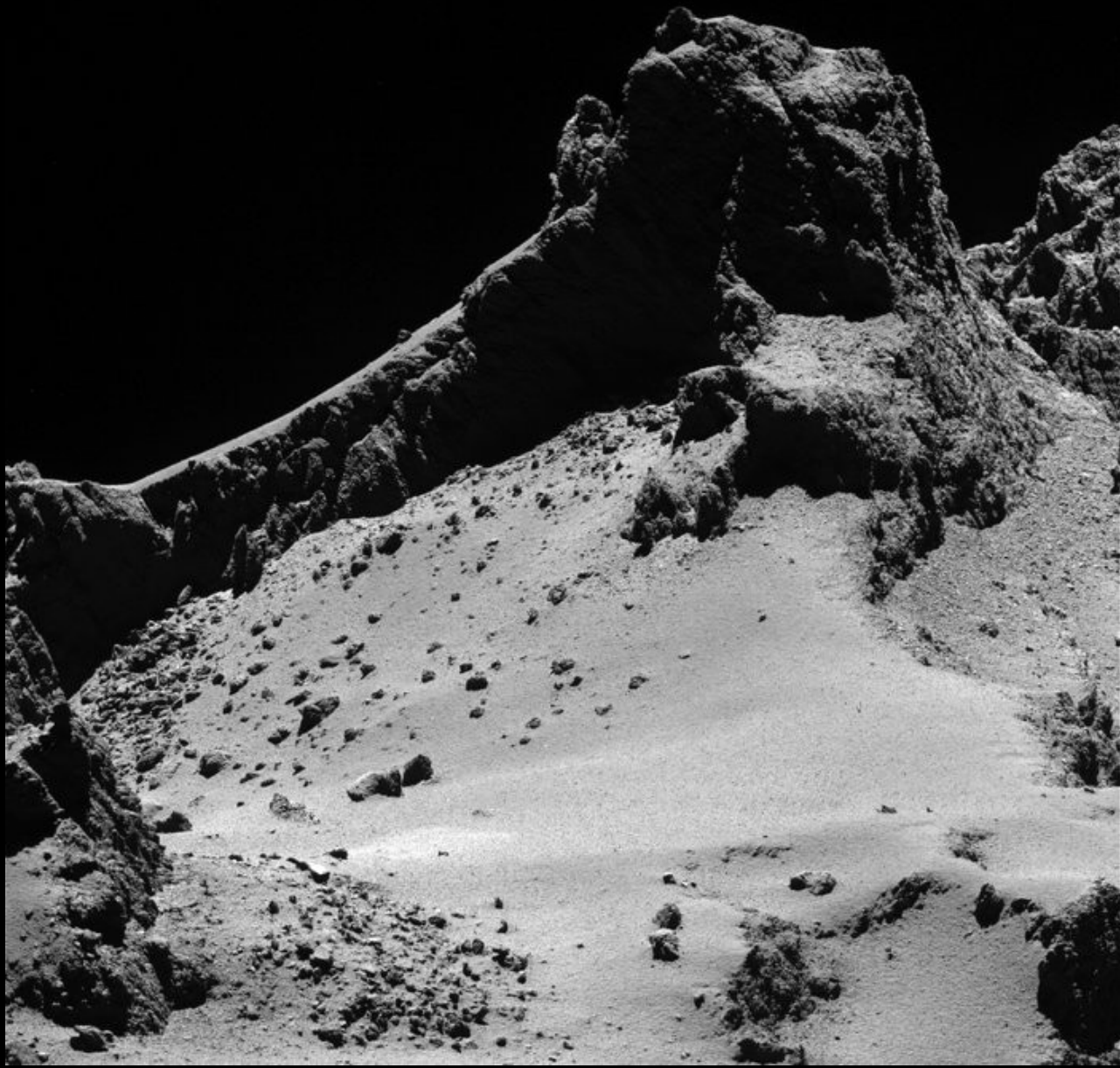


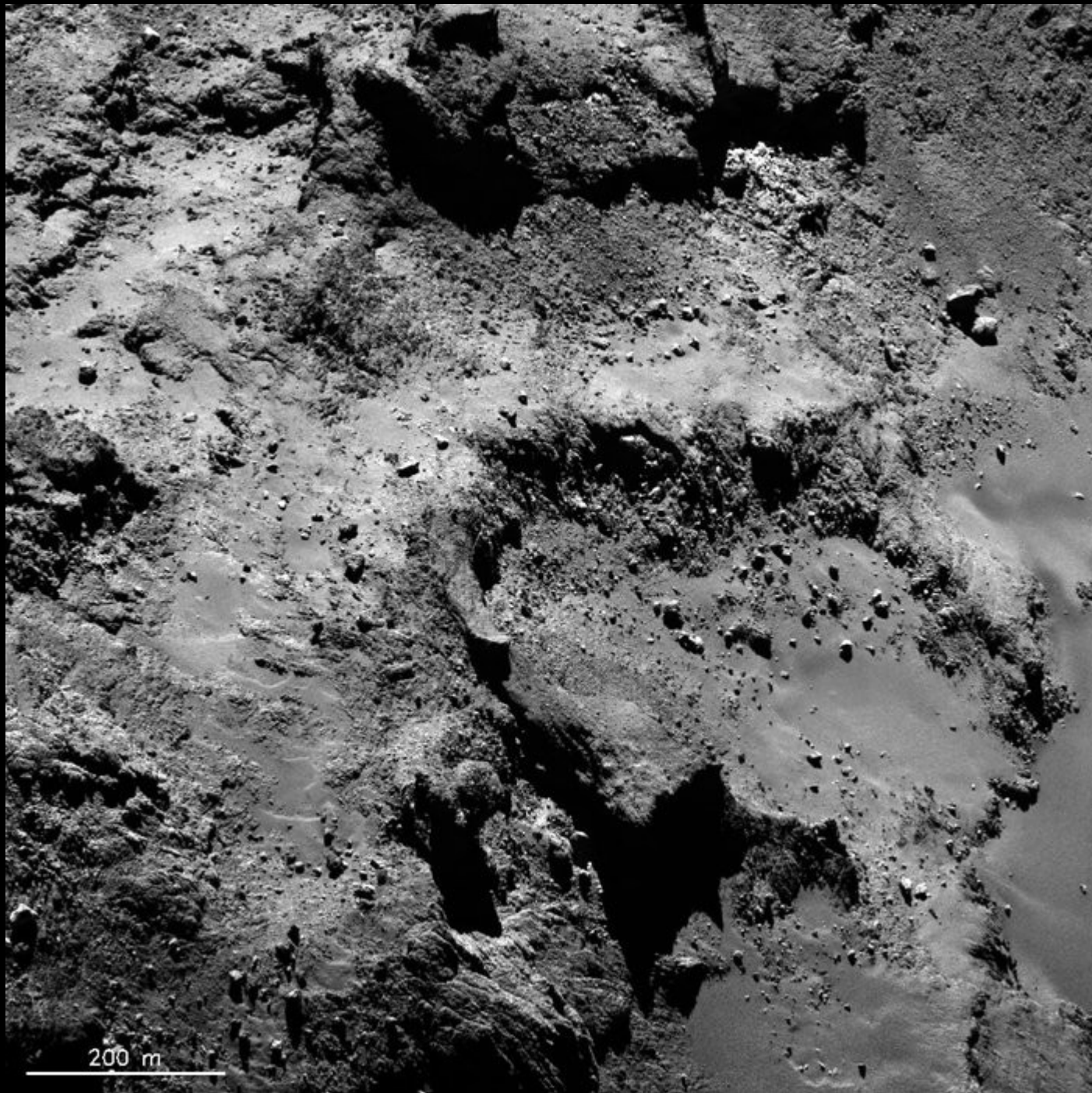
A selfie
at 16 km from nucleus
14/10/2014

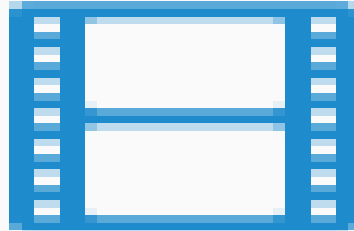
ESA/Rosetta/Philae/CIVA



From a distance of
28.0 km from the
centre of Comet
67P/Churyumov-
Gerasimenko on
31 January 2015.
The image
resolution is 2.4
m/pixel

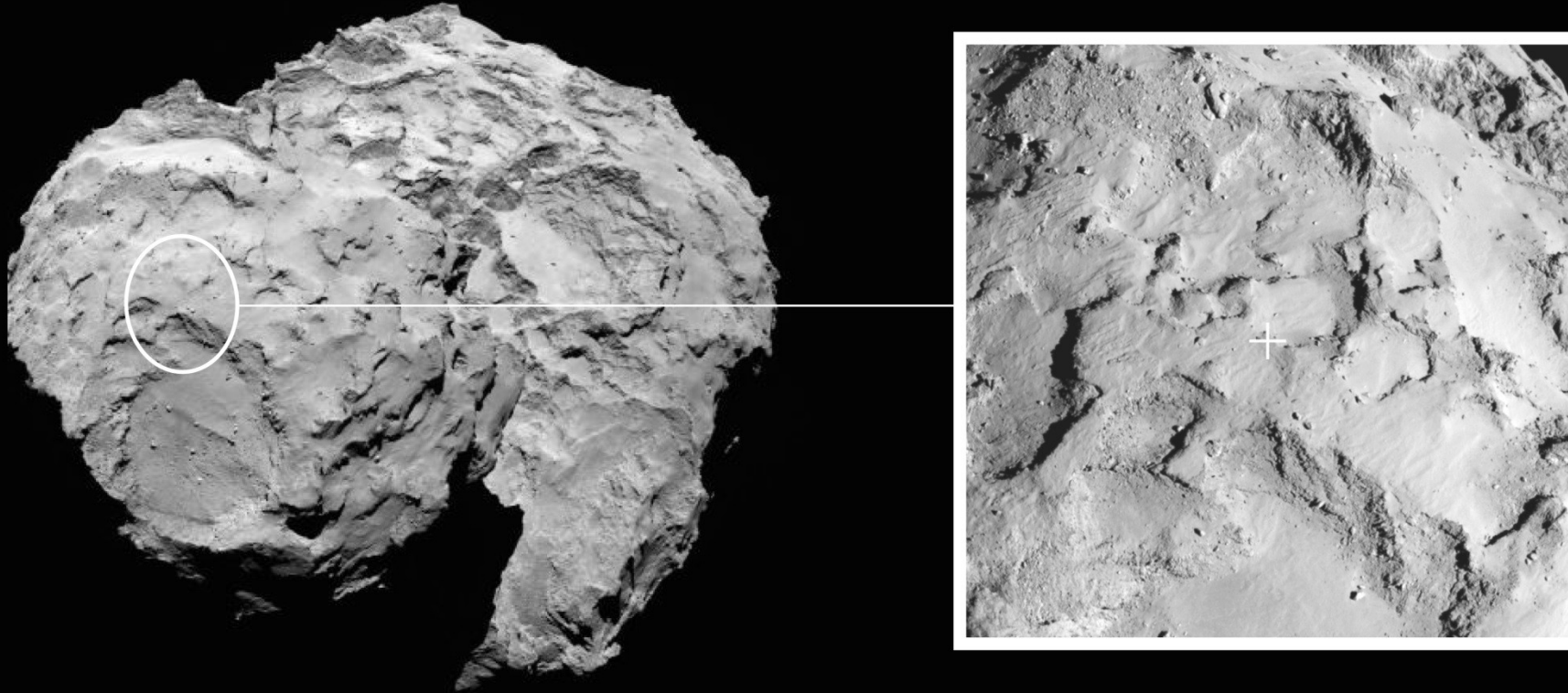






Complete journey at comet 67P : 08/2014 – 09/2016

→ PHILAE'S LANDING SITE

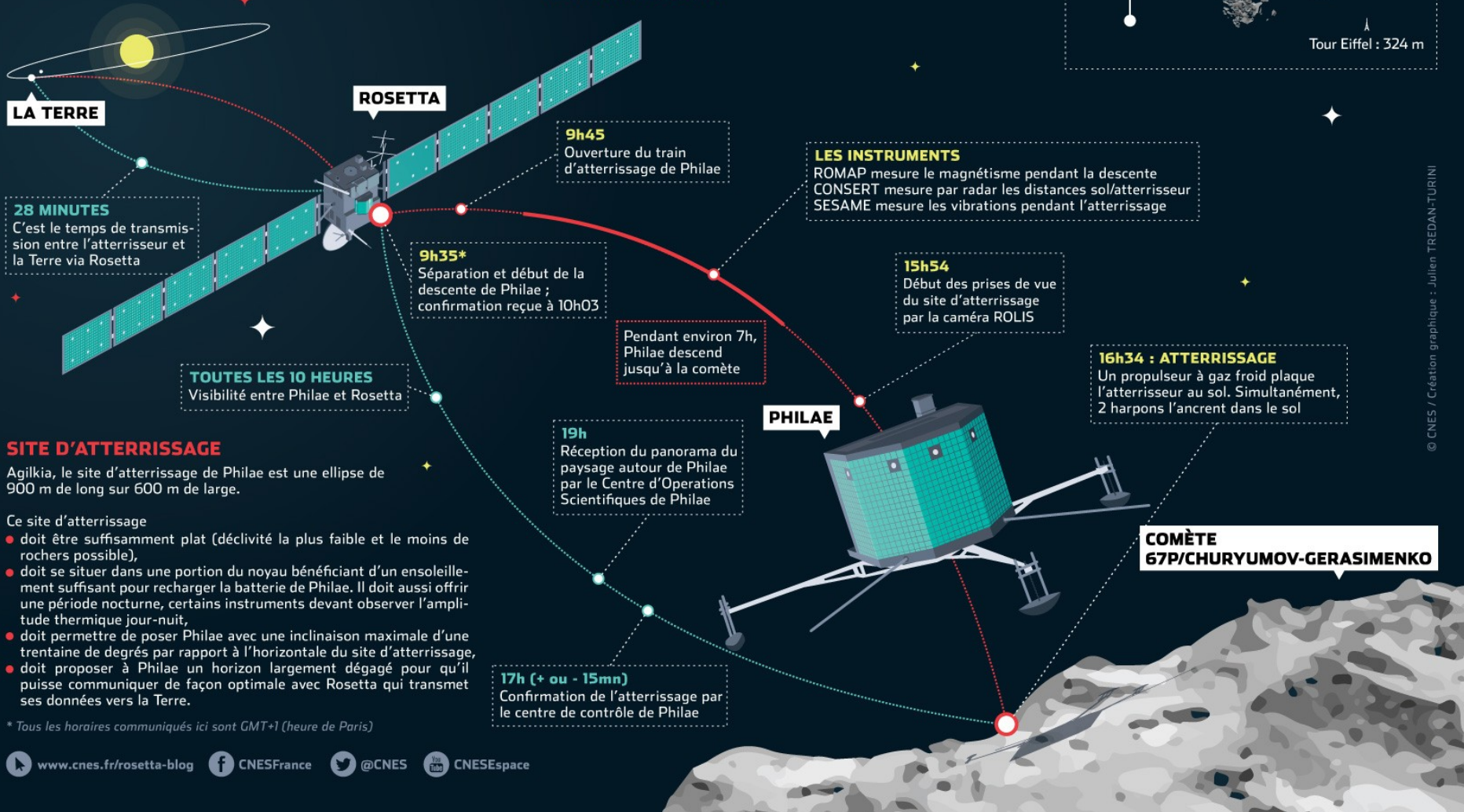
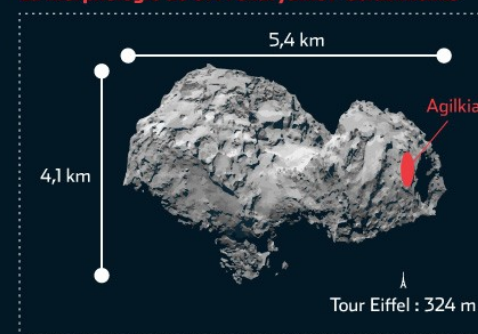


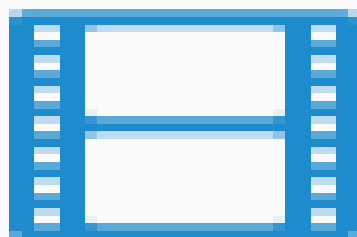
Atterrissage le 12 Novembre 2014

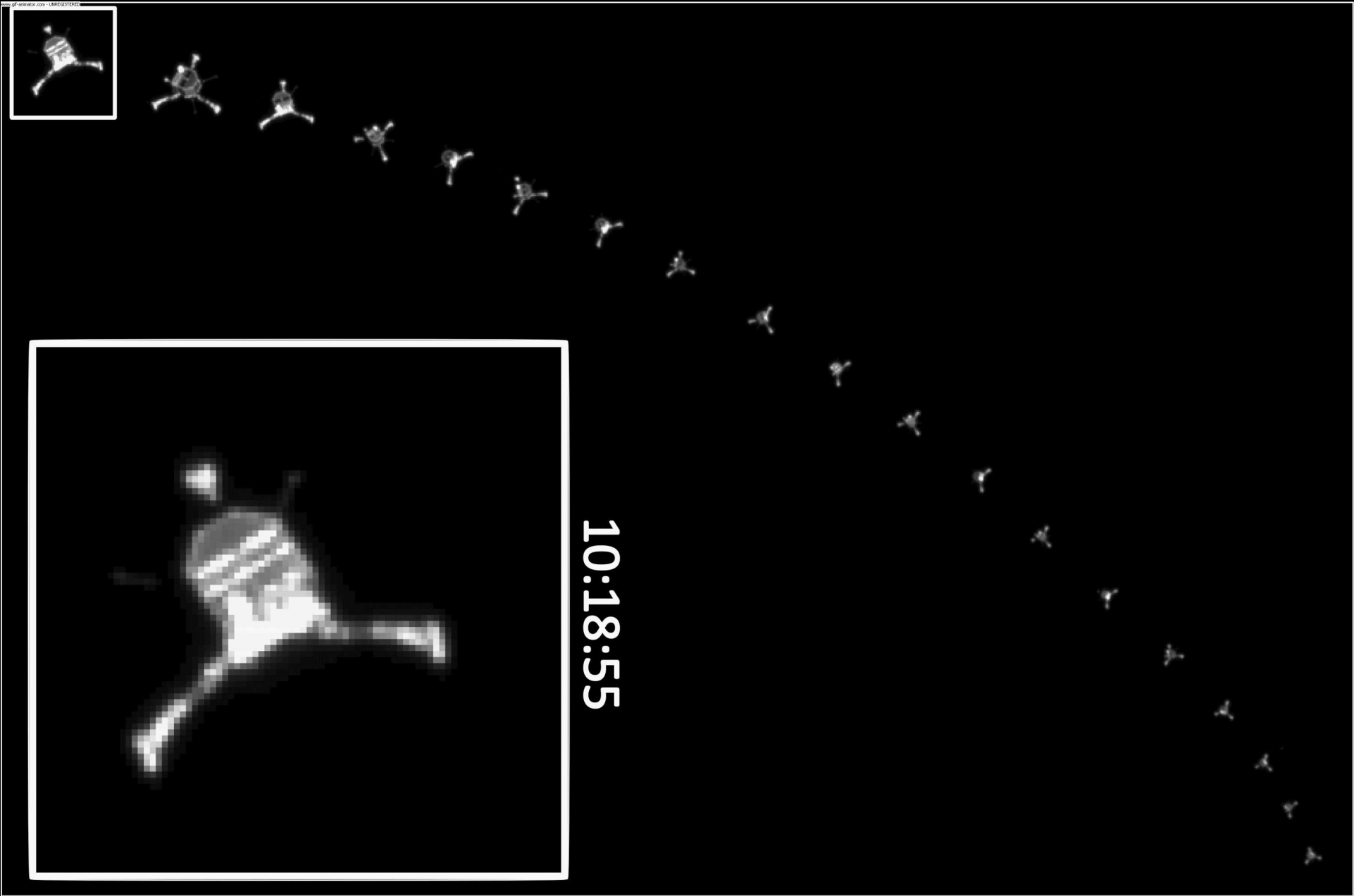
LA DESCENTE DE PHILAE VERS LA COMÈTE

12 novembre 2014

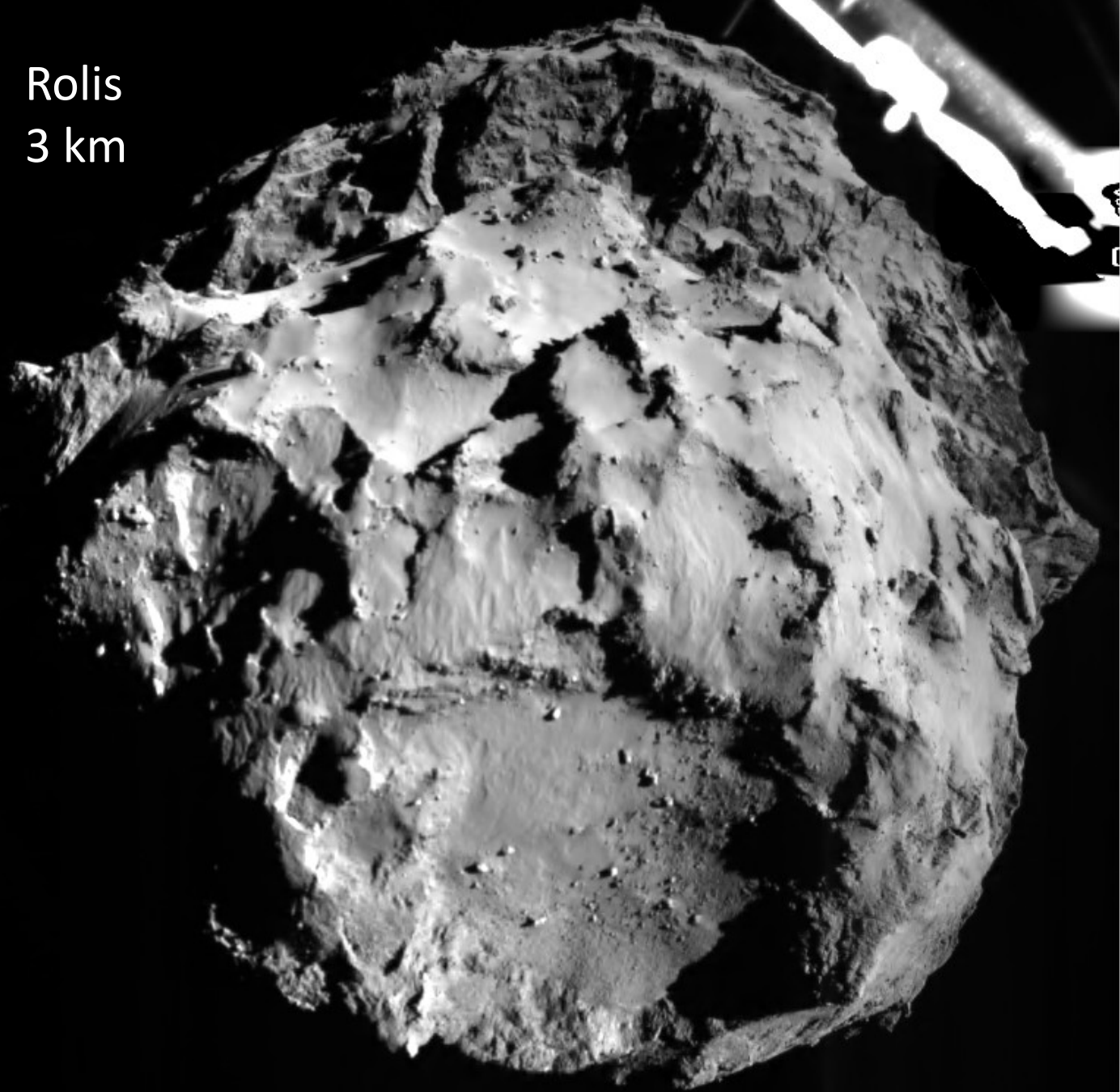
La morphologie de 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko

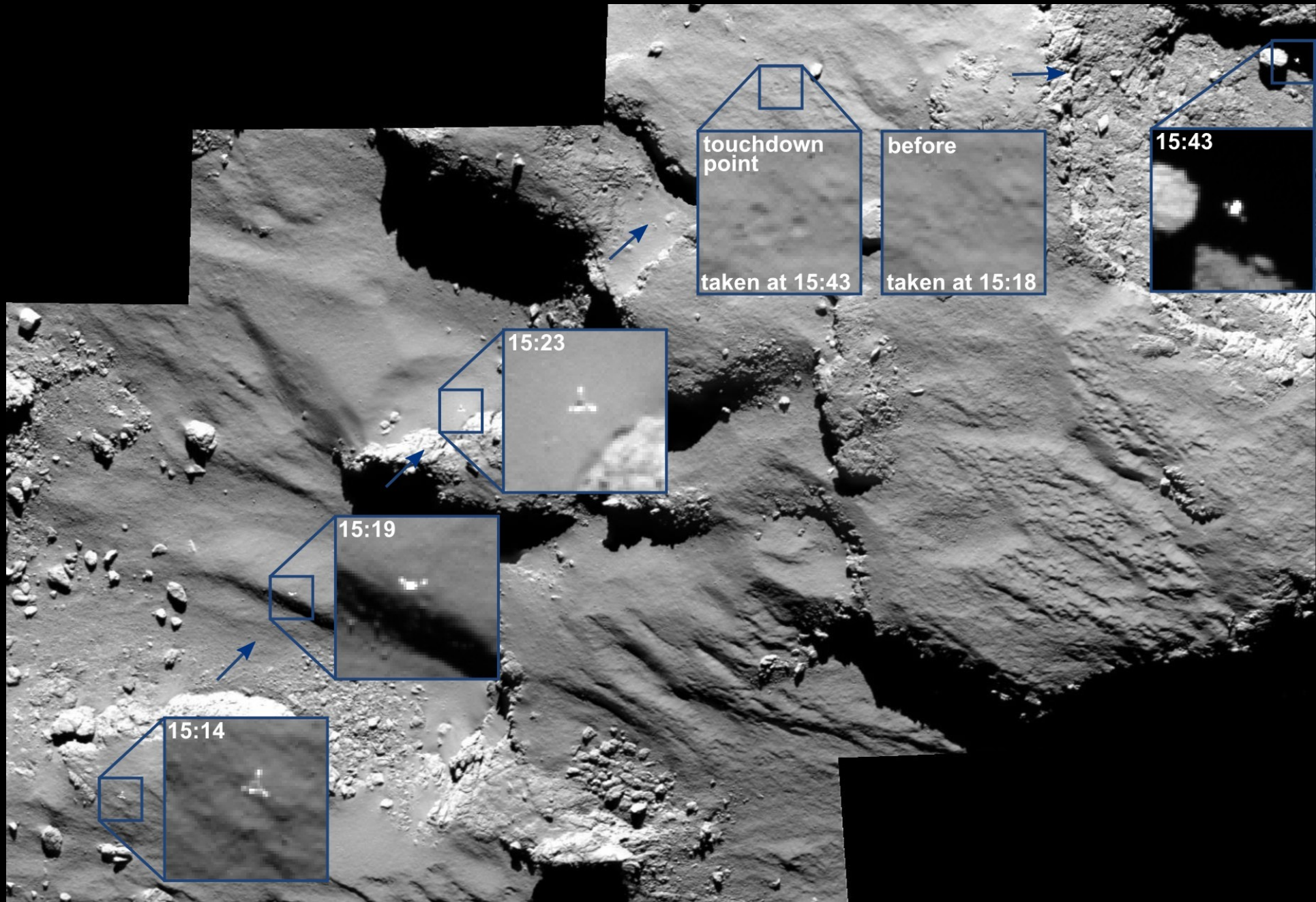






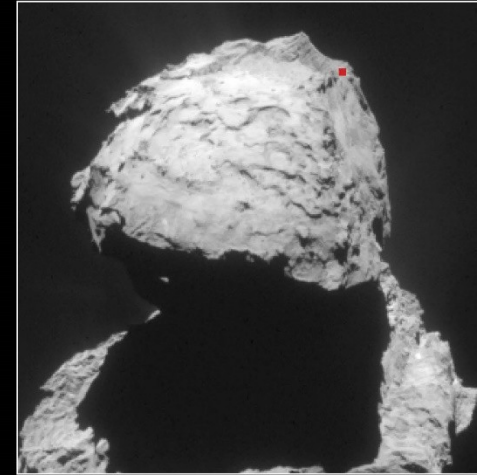
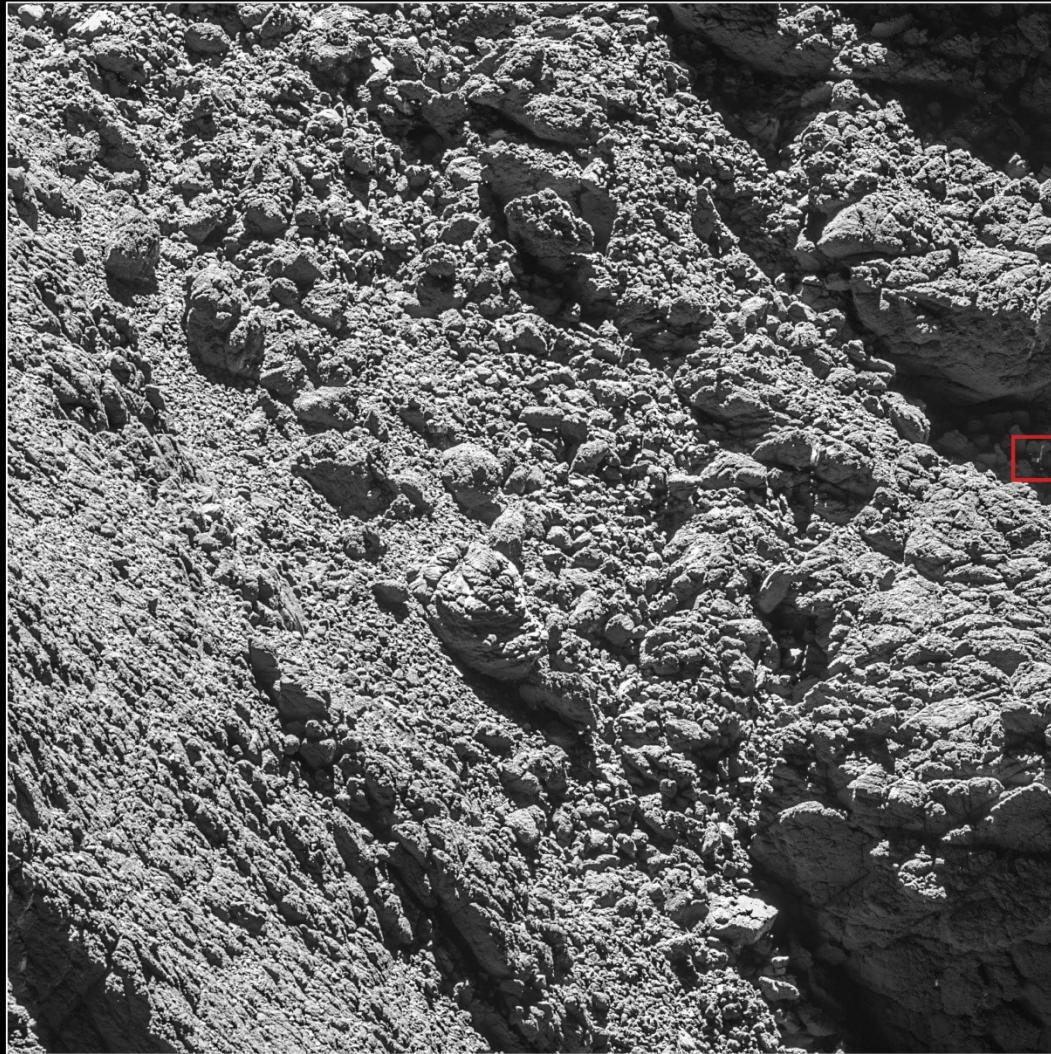
Rolis
3 km



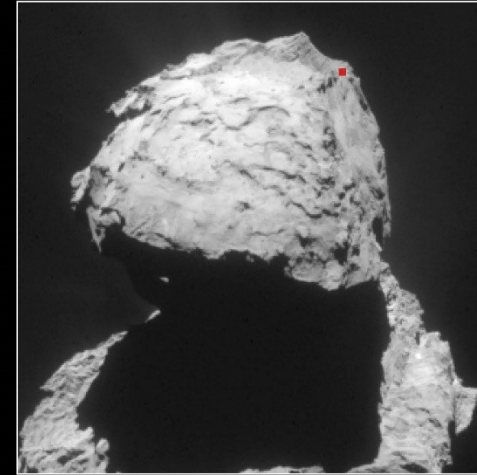
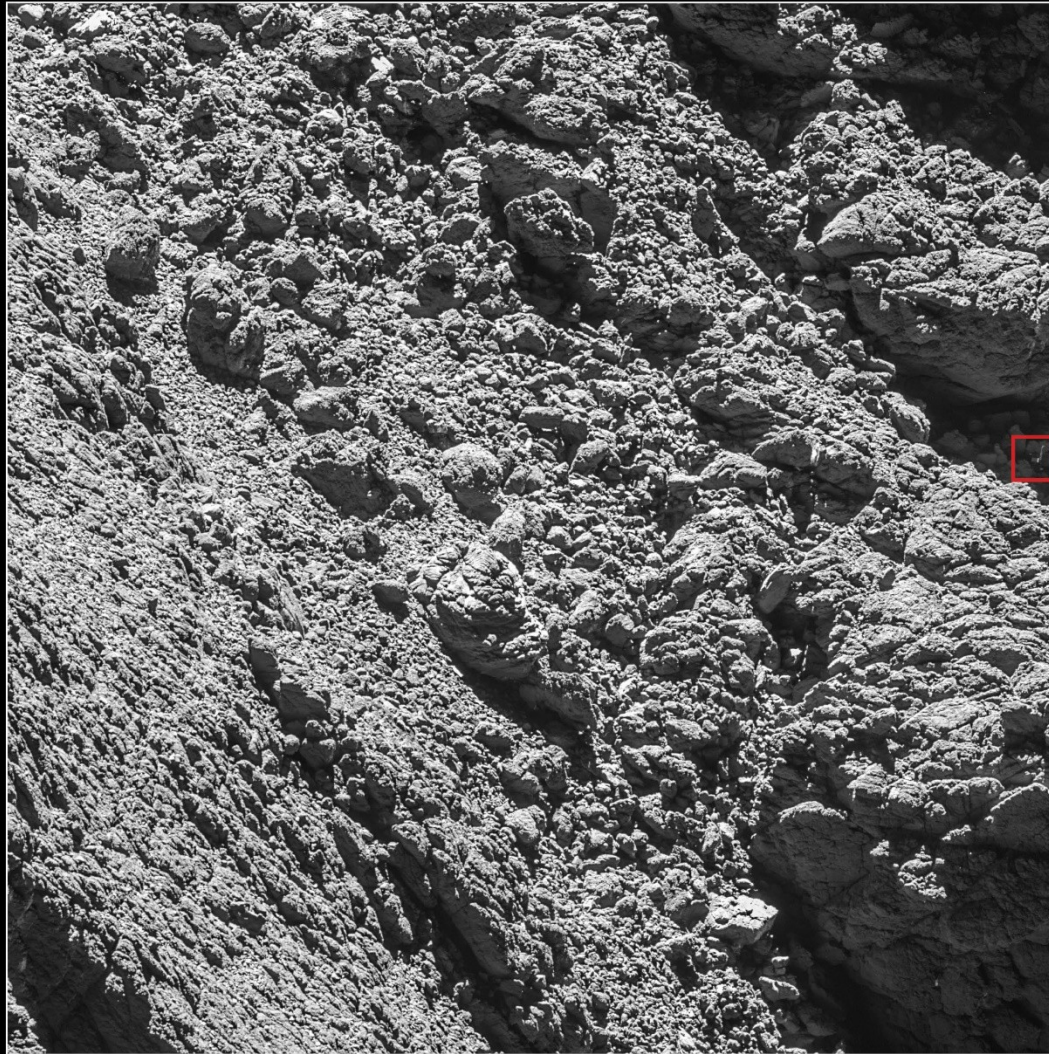






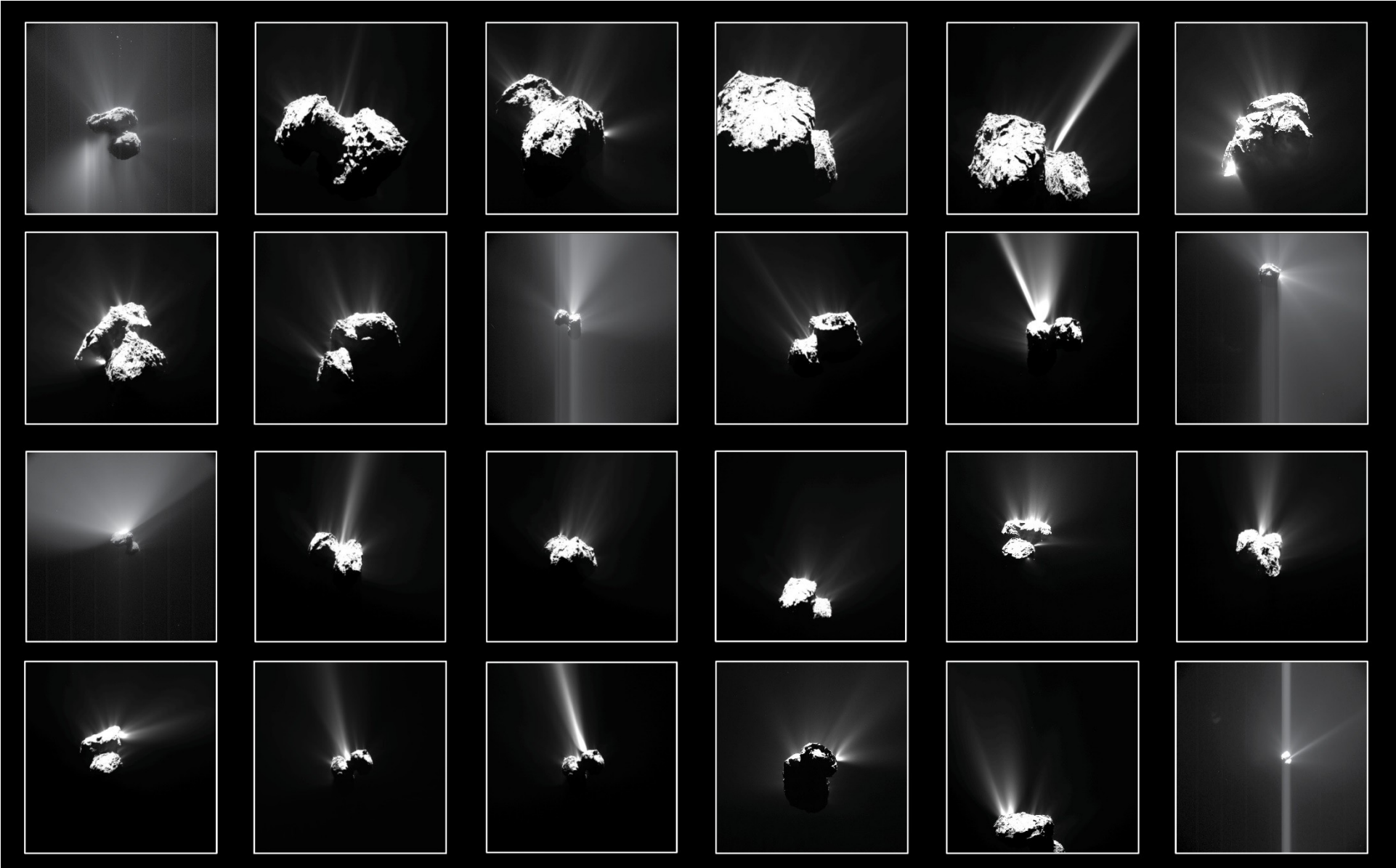


September 5th 2016



September 5th 2016

Summer 2015 Fireworks



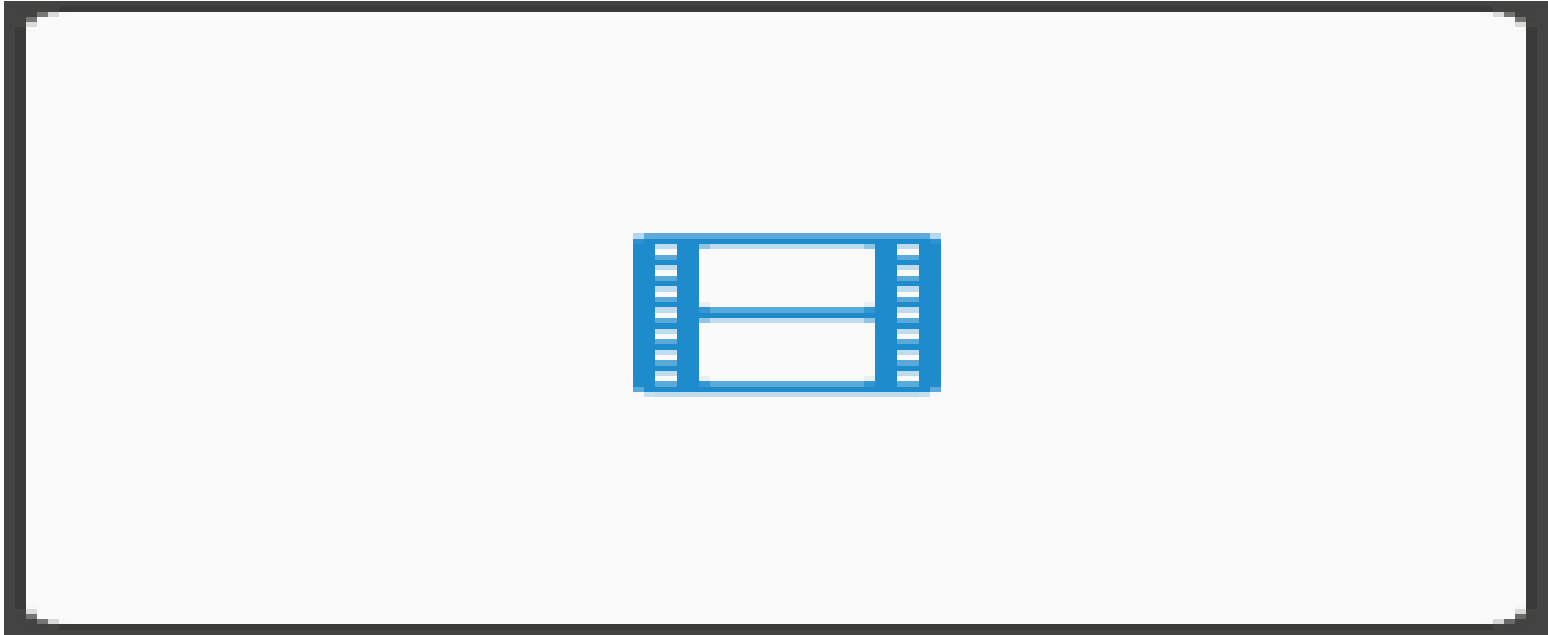
Photos prises par la sonde Rosetta pendant son passage au périhélie, été 2015

Credits: OSIRIS: ESA/Rosetta/MPS for OSIRIS Team MPS/UPD/LAM/IAA/SSO/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA; NavCam: ESA/Rosetta/NavCam – CC BY-SA IGO 3.0

July 29th, 2015



Credits: ESA/Rosetta/MPS for OSIRIS Team MPS/UPD/LAM/IAA/SSO/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA



Deep Impact movie (1998)

rosetta

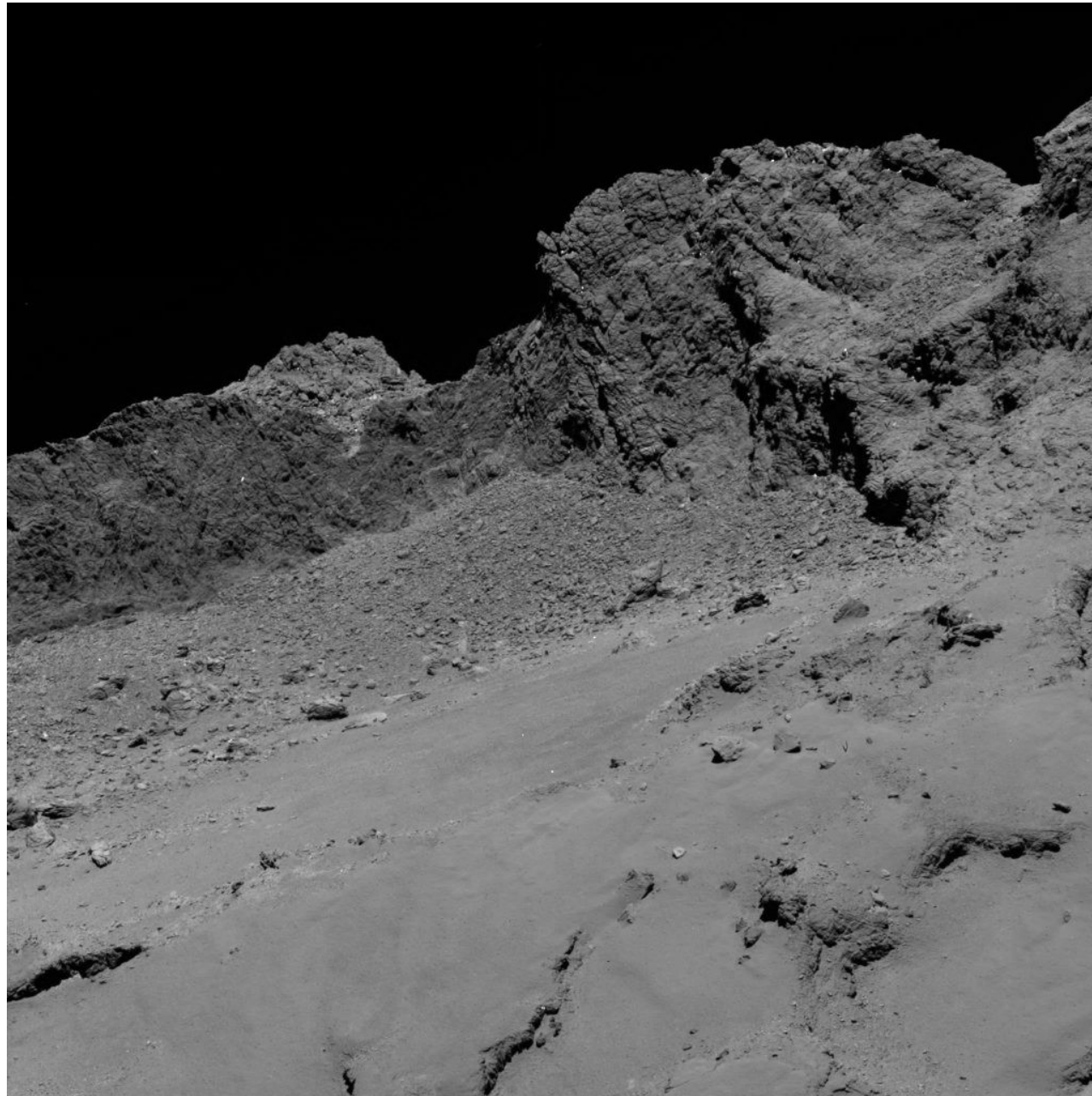


→ FINAL TRAJECTORY



September 29th, 2016
11h49
22.9 km from nucleus

End of mission

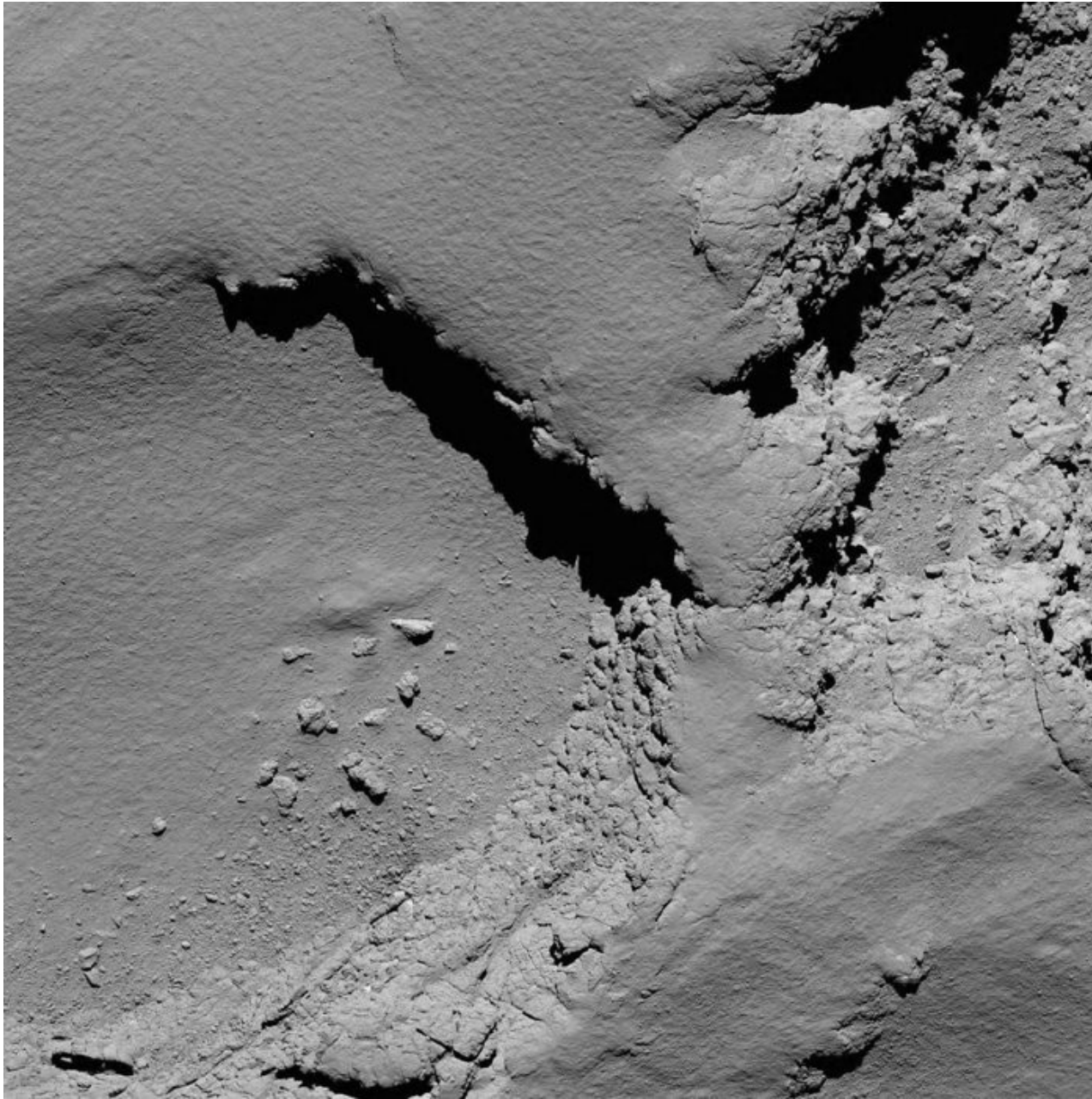


614 m

September 30th, 2016
3h20
16 km from nucleus

Credit: ESA/Rosetta/MPS for OSIRIS Team
MPS/UPD/LAM/IAA/SSO/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA

End of mission



September 30th, 2016
10h18
5.8 km from nucleus

225 m

Credit: ESA/Rosetta/MPS for OSIRIS Team
MPS/UPD/LAM/IAA/SSO/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA

End of mission

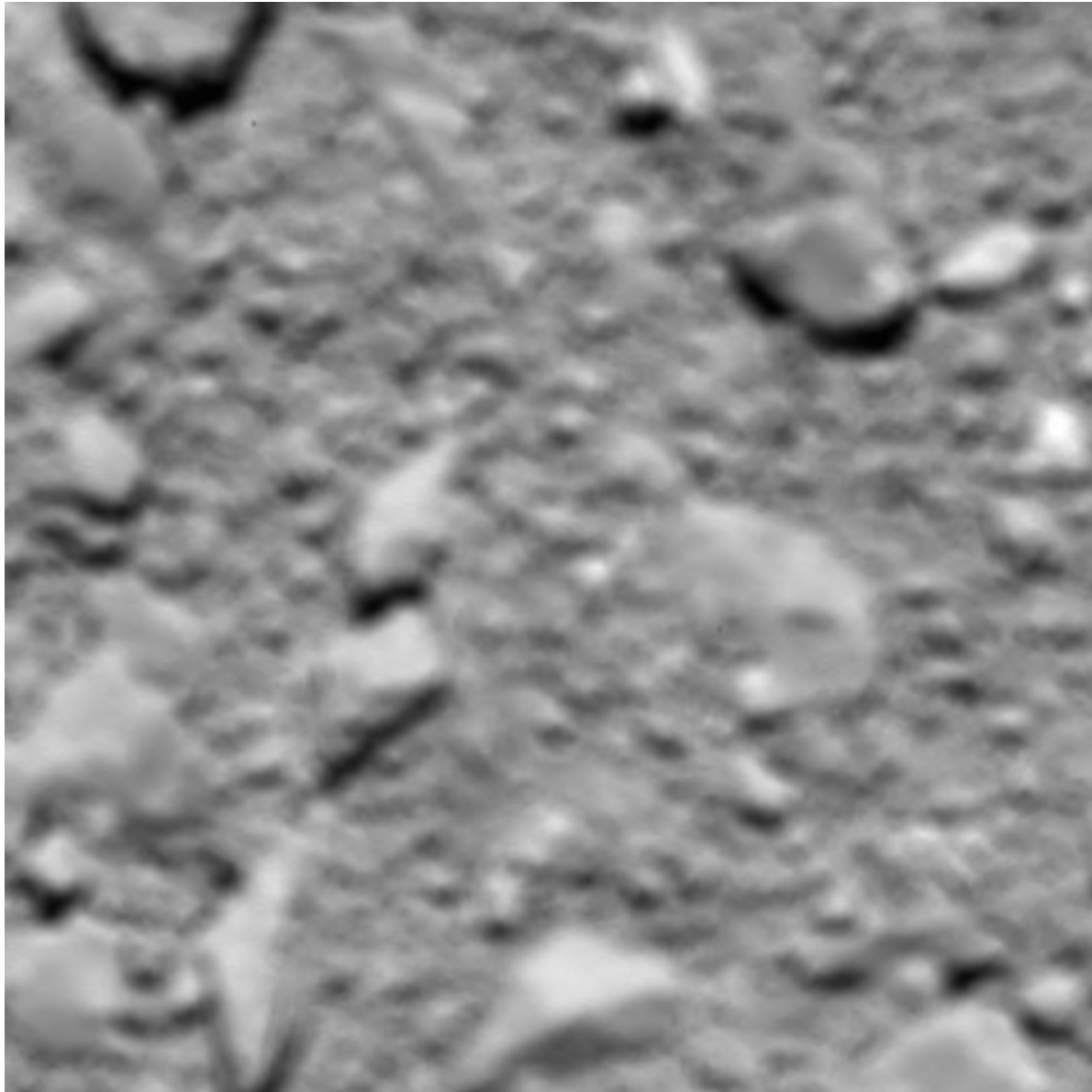


September 30th, 2016
12h14
1.2 km from nucleus

33 m

Credit: ESA/Rosetta/MPS for OSIRIS Team
MPS/UPD/LAM/IAA/SSO/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA

End of mission

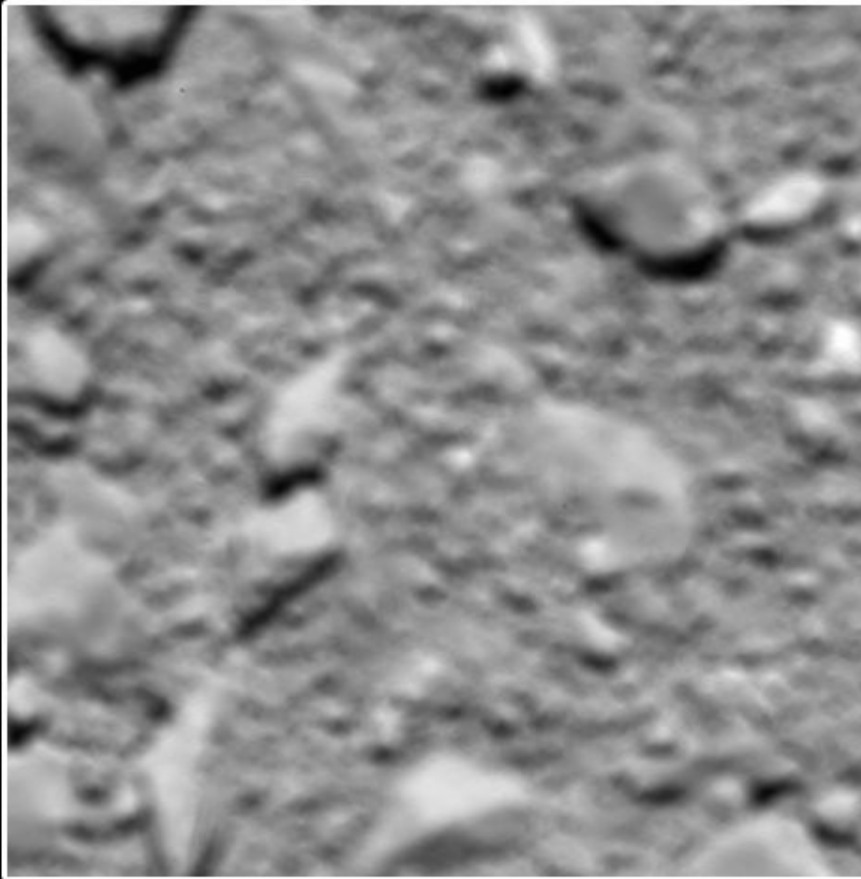


September 30th, 2016
13h19
20 m from nucleus

←—————→
96 cm

Credit: ESA/Rosetta/MPS for OSIRIS Team
MPS/UPD/LAM/IAA/SSO/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA

ROSETTA'S LAST IMAGE



Original



Processed



Septembre 30th – 13h19 20s

Rosetta Science

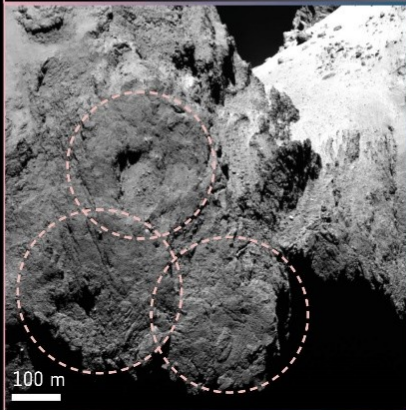


→ PROFILE OF A PRIMORDIAL COMET



Positive relief features

Spherical 'caps' hint at remnant cometesimals



Supervolatiles

The comet is rich in carbon monoxide, oxygen, nitrogen and argon, suggesting it formed at low temperature and did not experience thermal processing by heat from radioactive decay

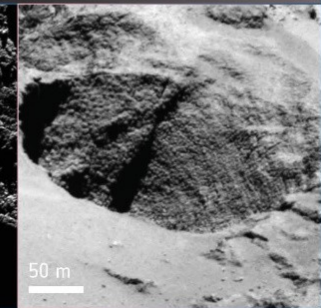
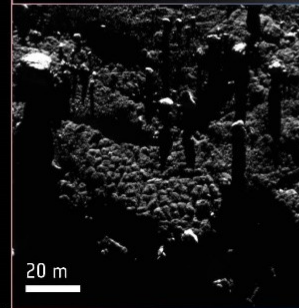
High porosity

Nucleus and ejected dust consist of highly porous material, implying low-speed accretion and excluding further high-speed collisional processing



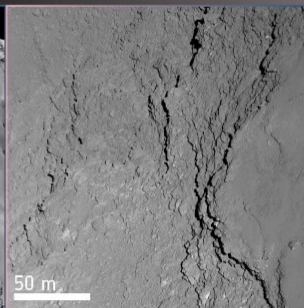
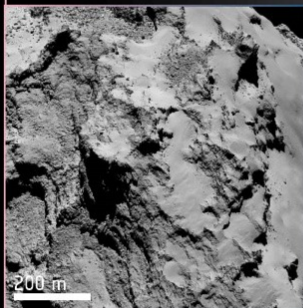
Goosebumps and clods

Internal 'lumpiness' hints at metre-sized cometesimals



Layers

Extensive layering implies material accumulated over a lengthy period



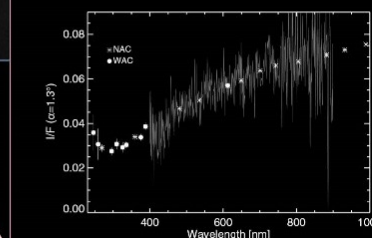
Low strength

Low density, high porosity and weak strength reflect properties of early cometesimals and imply low speed accretion



No alteration by liquid water

Absence of an absorption feature at 700 nm shows that minerals in the comet have not been altered by liquid water, implying that significant heating by radioactive decay did not take place



Two lobes

Similar properties of both lobes imply similar evolution, and survival against collision

Life of a cometary nucleus

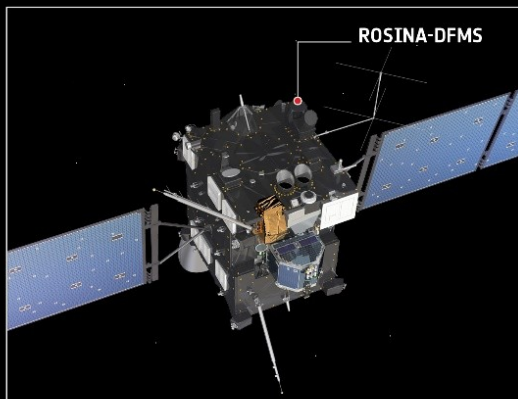
Surface erosion, preserving the interior

- Continuous degassing, throughout the mission, with a maximum of activity a few weeks after the perihelion.
- Diffuse & continuous ambient coma, sometimes accompanied by jets that may remain visible for a few minutes to a few hours.
- The jets mostly come from regions containing frost (CO_2 or H_2O) on the surface, or from cliffs.
 - erosion of the nucleus :
 - erosion of the cliffs
 - movements observed in the smooth zones,
 - displacement of blocks on the surface
 - opening of fractures
 - disappearance or deposition of fine materials.
- morphologies of wind origin (e.g. “dune”), change in color and composition (frost).
- erosion-related processes limited to the first few meters. The interior of the nucleus is thermally insulated from solar heating (low inertia), which preserves the materials located a few meters below the surface.

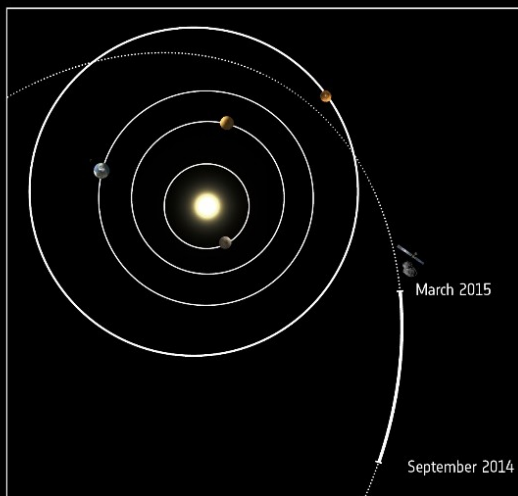
Composition:

- Complex molecular composition and a high abundance of carbon
- Some surprises related to water, O_2 ...

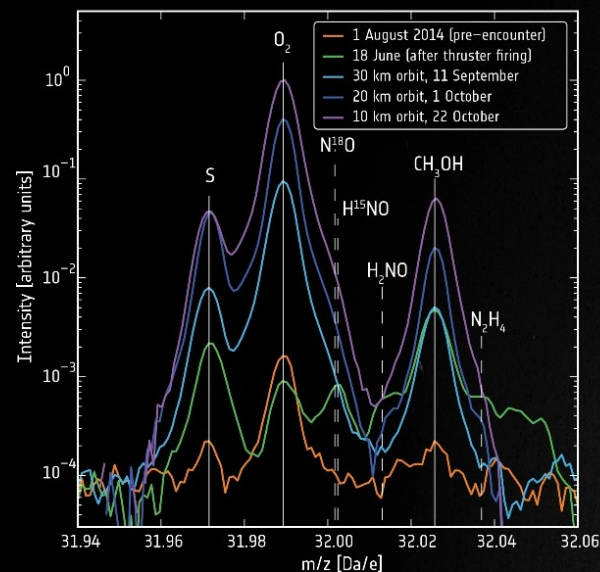
→ ROSETTA HAS MADE THE FIRST DETECTION OF MOLECULAR OXYGEN AT A COMET



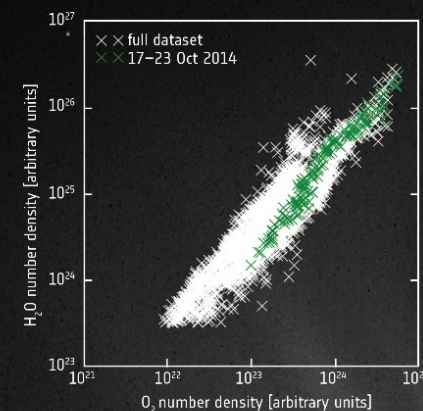
The measurements were made with the Rosetta Orbiter Spectrometer for Ion and Neutral Analysis Double-Focusing Mass Spectrometer (ROSINA-DFMS).



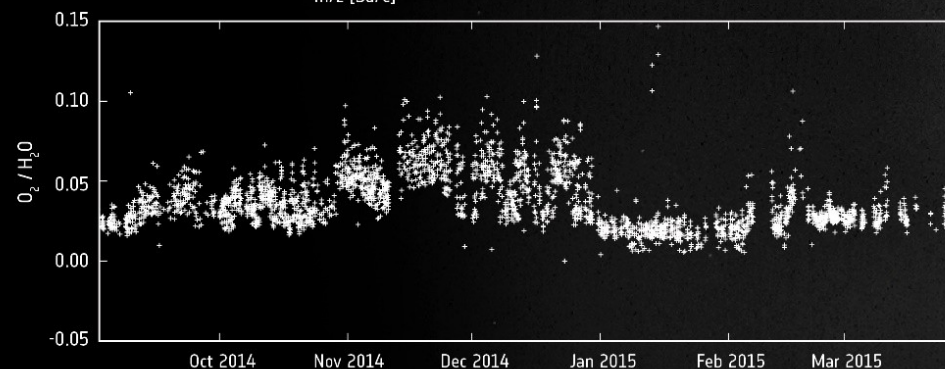
The results were collected between September 2014 and March 2015.



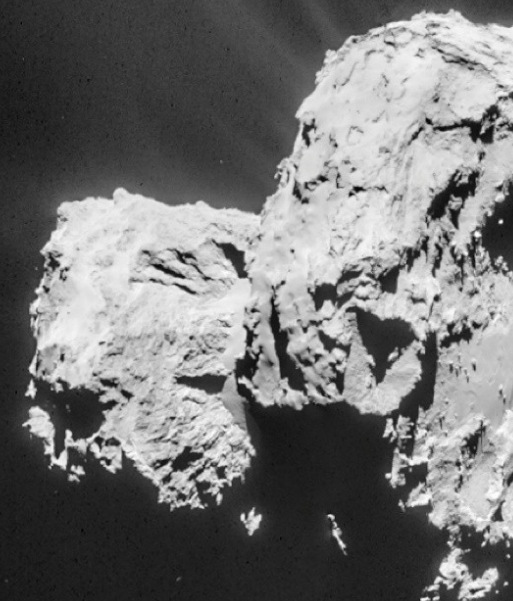
High-resolution measurements allowed molecular oxygen (O_2) to be distinguished from other species like sulphur (S) and methanol (CH_3OH). The detection of the coma gases is stronger closer to the comet nucleus, as expected. The contribution to the detection from contamination from the spacecraft thruster firings during manoeuvres is very low.



The strong correlation of molecular oxygen abundance with water vapour indicates a shared origin and release mechanism from the nucleus.



The O_2/H_2O ratio does not vary significantly over the study period. Short-lived strong variations are attributed to the decrease of the O_2 ratio for occasionally higher H_2O abundances linked to the daily water-ice cycle. The overall consistent level implies that O_2 is not produced today by solar wind or UV interaction with surface ices, otherwise it would rapidly decrease due to the comet's increased activity. Instead, the O_2 must have been incorporated into the comet's ices during its formation in the early Solar System, and is being released with the water vapour today.



How to detect O₂ in a comet

Very difficult by spectroscopy (O₂ is a symmetrical molecule)

The detection was made by mass spectrometry: we “weigh the molecule” thanks to its electrostatic properties

But some spectral confusions are possible

O = 16 => O₂ = 32

S = 32 !!

C = 12, H = 1,
CH₃OH = 32 !!

N = 14

N₂H₄ = 32 !!

