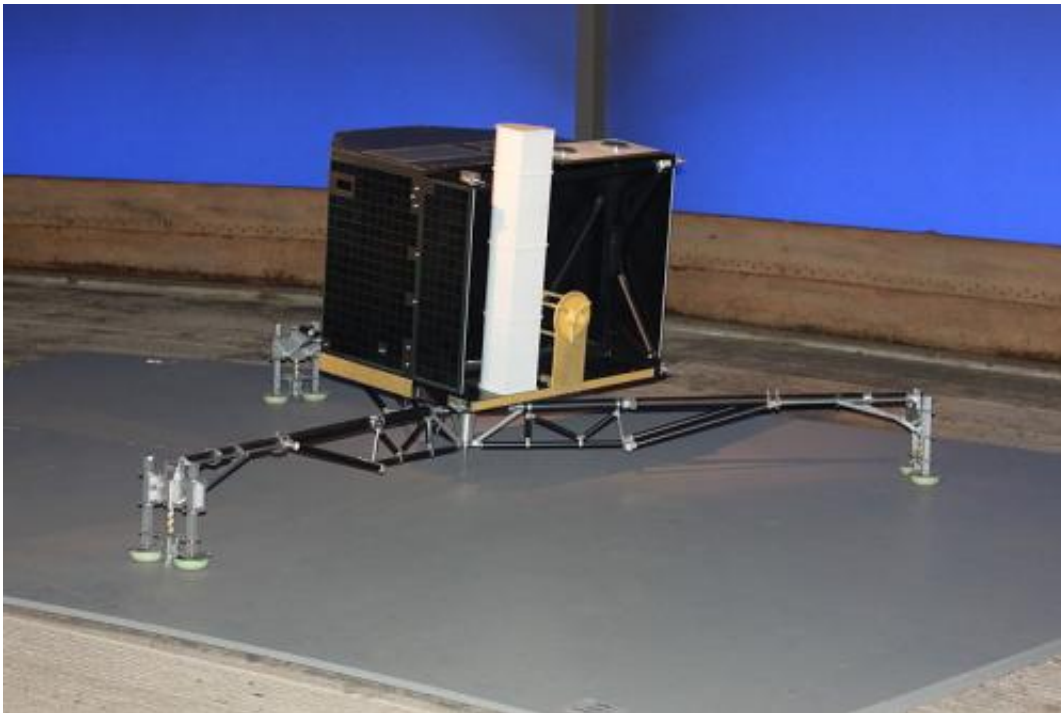


Scientists say comet lander may have shifted position

July 20 2015



Model of Philae lander. Credit: Wikipedia.

Scientists say the Philae spacecraft that landed on a comet last year may have shifted its position, making it harder to communicate with the probe.

The European Space Agency says it hasn't received data from the lander since July 9. Philae's project manager, Stephan Ulamec, said Monday the

pattern of sunlight on the lander's solar panels appears to have changed, possibly due to a slight shift in position triggered by gas coming out of the comet.

One of Philae's two transmission units also appears to be faulty.

Scientists plan to send further commands to the [lander](#) and hope it responds again, as has happened before.

The mission will now focus on the spacecraft Rosetta, which is following [comet](#) 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko that Philae is on as it goes around the sun.

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