

Europe's comet chaser gets final commands to end its mission

September 30 2016



The artist impression provided on the website of the European Space Agency ESA on Sept. 29, 2016 shows ESA's Rosetta cometary probe. The spacecraft will be crash landed on Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko Sept. 30, 2016. (J. Huart/ESA via AP)

Europe's comet-chasing space probe Rosetta has received its last commands putting it on course to crash-land on the icy surface of the

alien world it's been following for more than a decade.

Scientists say Rosetta fired its thrusters for 208 seconds late Thursday and is now expected to hit the surface of comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko at 1038 GMT Friday.

During its final descent the probe will carry out a series of pre-programmed commands including taking unprecedented low-altitude images of the comet that could reveal [surface features](#) as small as an inch (2.5 centimeter).

The European Space Agency's Rosetta probe and its sidekick Philae, which landed on the comet in November 2014, have provided scientists with new insights into the composition of comets and the formation of [celestial bodies](#).

More information: rosetta.esa.int

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Europe's comet chaser gets final commands to end its mission (2016, September 30) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-09-europe-comet-chaser-mission.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.