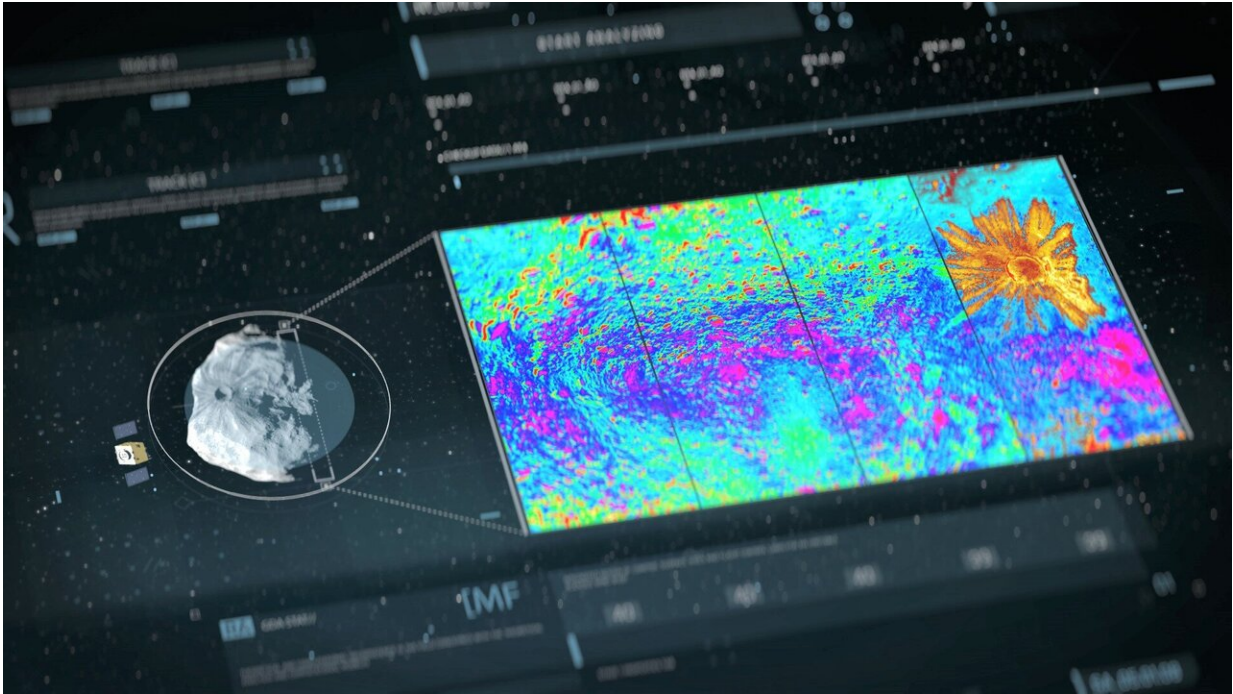


Image: Hera scans Didymoon

November 22 2019



Credit: ESA – Science Office

Hera is a candidate ESA mission be presented to ESA's Space19+ meeting next week as part of the Agency's Space Safety programme, where Europe's space ministers will take a final decision on flying it.

If approved, Hera will be humankind's first probe to rendezvous with a [binary asteroid system](#), Didymos. The larger of the two asteroids is orbited by its smaller 'moon' – Didymoon – which is due to have its [orbit](#)

shifted by a collision with US spacecraft DART. Hera will fly close to Didymoon, mapping its entire surface down to a resolution of a few metres, and the surface surrounding the DART crater down to >10 cm resolution, through a series of daring flybys. It will also map much of the surface of the primary Didymos asteroid, providing crucial scientific data from two asteroids in a single mission.

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: Image: Hera scans Didymoon (2019, November 22) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-11-image-hera-scans-didymoon.html>

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