

Video: Eclipse-making double-satellite Proba-3

June 12 2024



Credit: European Space Agency

Proba-3 is ESA's—and the world's—first precision formation flying mission. A pair of satellites will fly together relative to the sun so that one casts a precisely-controlled shadow onto the other, to create a prolonged solar eclipse in orbit.

In the process, the [mission](#) will open up the sun's faint surrounding coronal atmosphere for sustained study. Normally, this [corona](#) is rendered invisible by the brilliant face of the sun, like a firefly next to a bonfire.

Due for launch together this [autumn](#), the two Proba-3 satellites will fly 144-m apart for up to six hours at a time to create these eclipses. Beside its scientific interest, this experiment will be a perfect method to demonstrate the precise positioning of the two platforms. It will be enabled using a novel combination of guidance technologies. In this video, the Proba-3 team details the mission concept.

Provided by European Space Agency

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