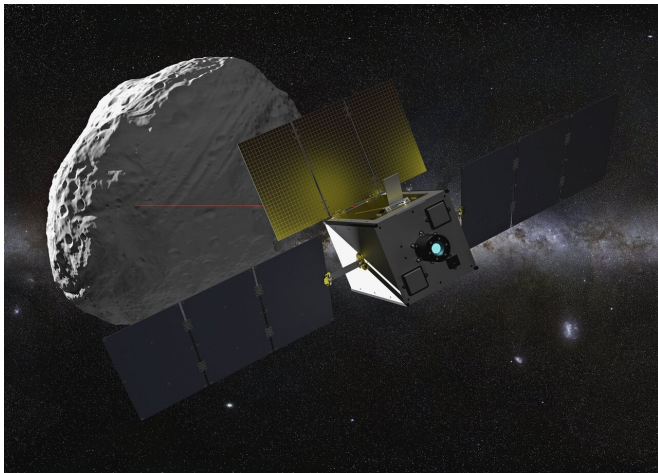


Image: Suitcase-sized asteroid explorer

1 July 2020



Credit: ESA-Jacky Huart

A view of ESA's smallest future asteroid mission mapping its target body by laser.

The suitcase-sized ESA's Miniaturised Asteroid Remote Geophysical Observer, or M-Argo will use a multispectral camera and a [laser altimeter](#) to look for asteroid resources such as hydrated minerals that could be extracted in future. Other miniaturised [payloads](#) are also being considered.

Planned for launch in the 2023-25 timeframe, M-Argo would use its flat reflectarray antenna to return science data to Earth from up to 150 million km away.

Provided by European Space Agency

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