

Mercury forced landing solar power generation

Would a landed mission to Mercury accomplish groundbreaking science?

Science Objectives and Traceability The purpose of this concept study was to evaluate the feasibility of a landed mission to Mercury in the near future that would accomplish groundbreaking science. As discussed in Section 3, there is no shortage of transformative science that can be done by the first landed mission to the innermost planet.

What is a solar power array for Mercury?

Solar power arrays for Mercury are designed to guarantee a severe operational environment, mainly characterized by high temperatures and high light intensity (up to 11 solar constants, or 15 kW/m²), due to the vicinity of planet Mercury to the Sun.

How important are in situ measurements to a landed mission to Mercury?

The importance of in situ measurements via a landed mission to Mercury was recognized by the 2013-2022 Decadal Survey, and again with its selection for a Planetary Mission Concept Study in support of the 2023-2032 Decadal Survey.

What is the Mercury lander mission?

This Mercury Lander mission concept returns in situ measurements that address fundamental science questions raised by the MErcury Surface, Space ENvironment, GEochemistry, and Ranging (MESSENGER) mission's pioneering exploration of Mercury.

How difficult is it to land on Mercury?

Mercury is the only inner planet unexplored by a landed spacecraft; landing on Mercury is uniquely challenging due to the large DV requirements and extreme thermal environment for such a mission.

Could a lander be sent to Mercury's Surface?

The concept of sending a lander to Mercury's surface is not new. A Mercury Surface Element (MSE) lander module was considered in the initial planning of the BepiColombo mission [69].

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Mariner 10 provided our first close-up reconnaissance of Mercury. Although the spacecraft imaged less than half of the surface during its three flybys in 1974-1975, those ...

Mercury for a little more than four Earth years, acquiring global observations of the planet's surface and



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measurements of the interior, exosphere, and magnetosphere. Thanks to ...

Each side of each solar panel is designed to maximize power generation and minimize operating temperature for a given solar distance range. From launch until the spacecraft reaches about 0.60 Astronomical Units (AU), where the ...

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This paper describes the mission concept design that meets those challenges by leveraging recent technology advances including increased launch vehicle performance capability, further ...

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Here, we detail outstanding questions related to several aspects of Mercury's character and evolution that can be addressed either more fully, or uniquely, by a landed mission. We ...

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