

Giotto's final mission

Five years after losing half its instruments in a spectacular trip through the tail of Halley's comet, Europe's battered space probe, Giotto, is limping towards a final rendezvous with the comet Grigg-Skjellerup

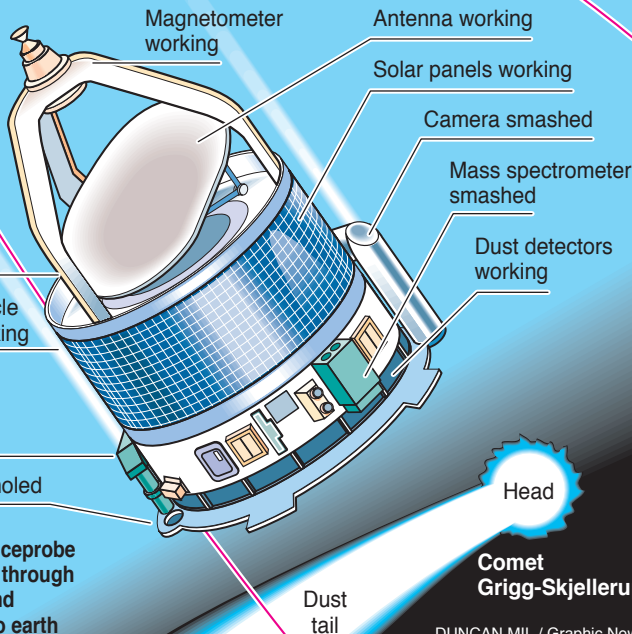
1990: Wake-up call sent from transmitter in Madrid

1990: Giotto passed within 22,000 km of Earth. Sling-shot effect increased its speed to catch up with Grigg-Skjellerup

1986: Giotto put into hibernation 100 million km from Earth



Earth



Magnetometer working

Antenna working

Solar panels working

Camera smashed

Mass spectrometer smashed

Dust detectors working

Main battery destroyed

Charged particle detectors working

Dust mass spectrometer out of position

Kevlar shield holed

July 1992: Spaceprobe expected to fly through tail of comet and transmit data to earth

Head

Comet Grigg-Skjellerup

Dust tail