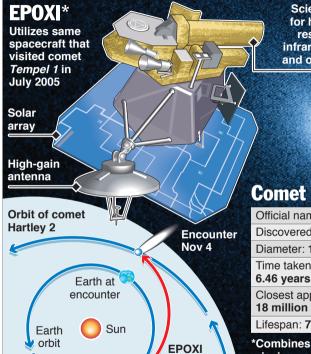
NASA aims for close encounter with comet

NASA's Deep Impact spacecraft, now on an extended mission known as EPOXI, will rendezvous with comet Hartley 2 on November 4, flying within 700km and taking close-up images of the comet's icy nucleus



Science instruments for high and medium resolution imaging. infrared spectroscopy and optical navigation

Comet Hartley 2

Official name: 103P/Hartley Discovered: March 1986

Diameter: 1.5km (approx)

Time taken to orbit sun:

Closest approach to Earth: 18 million km

Lifespan: 700 years

*Combines names of two mission components -EPOch (Extrasolar

Earth gravity assist Jun 27, 2010

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Picture: NASA, ESA, H. Weaver

orbit

DIXI (Deep Impact **Extended Investigation)**

Planet Observation and Characterization),