

Dual satellite mission to Mercury

BepiColombo is a joint European-Japanese initiative that will send two satellites to the planet Mercury, where they will separate to conduct different but complementary observations

**ARIANE 5
ROCKET**

Payload:
Flight stack
MMO

MPO

MTM

**Mercury Magnetospheric
Orbiter (MMO):** Studies
magnetic environment

Sun shield: Jettisoned
on arrival at planet

**Mercury Planetary
Orbiter (MPO):**
Studies surface
and interior of planet

**JAXA
(Japan)**

**ESA
(Europe)**

Solar
panels
unfurl

**Mercury Transfer Module
(MTM):** Flies stack to
Mercury (later discarded)

MERCURY
Least explored
rocky planet in
solar system

Diameter: 4,880km

Crust

Mantle

Surface
temp:
400°C+

Oct 2018:

Launch from Kourou
Spaceport in **French
Guiana**. Arrival in 2025

Solid inner core
Liquid outer core