



Mission 'selfie' from 16 kilometres

14 October 2014

This mission 'selfie' was taken on 7 October at a distance of approximately 16 kilometres from the surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko by the CIVA imaging system on board Rosetta's lander, Philae. It captures the side of the Rosetta spacecraft and one of its 14 metre-long solar arrays, with 67P/C-G in the background. The comet's active 'neck' region is clearly visible, with streams of dust and gas extending away from the comet.

Two images, one with a short exposure time and one with a longer one, were combined to capture the whole dynamic range of the scene, from the bright parts of the solar arrays to the dark comet and the unilluminated insulation cladding the Rosetta spacecraft.

CIVA, the Comet Infrared and Visible Analyser, is one of 10 instruments on board Philae. The CIVA-P part of the instrument comprises seven micro-cameras arranged around the top of the lander to take panorama images, while CIVA-M is a visible/infrared microscope imager/spectrometer that will study the composition, texture, and albedo of surface samples.

The 7 October selfie is the last image from Philae before the lander separates from Rosetta on 12 November. The next image will be taken by CIVA shortly after separation, when the lander looks back at the orbiter to bid it a final farewell.

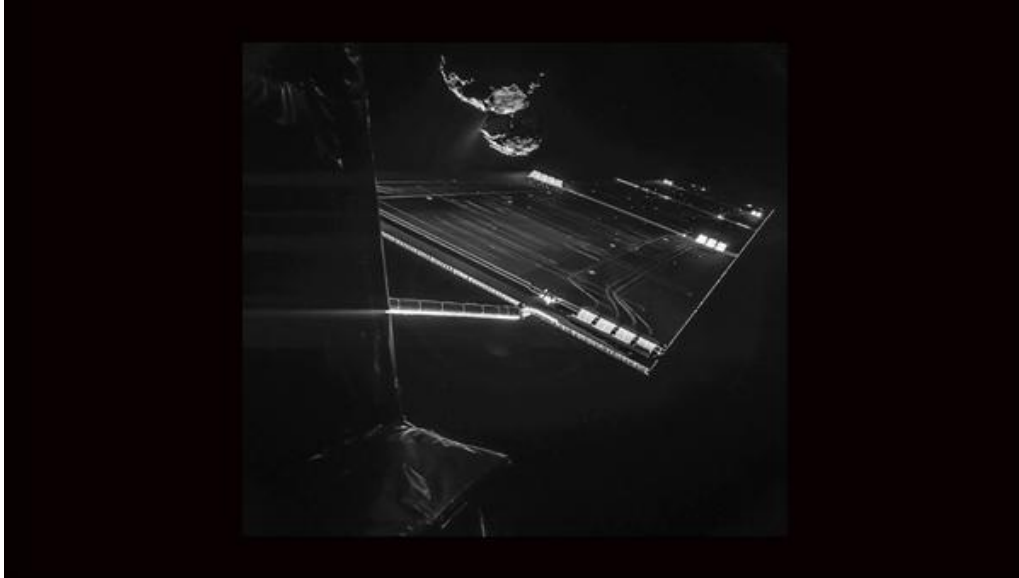
The mission

Rosetta is an ESA mission with contributions from its member states and NASA. Rosetta's Philae lander is funded by a consortium headed by DLR, the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (MPS), CNES and the Italian Space Agency (ASI).

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Rosetta mission 'selfie' at 16 kilometres



Using the CIVA camera on Rosetta's Philae lander, the spacecraft have snapped a 'selfie' at comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko from a distance of about 16 kilometres from the surface of the comet. The image was acquired on 7 October 2014 and captures the side of the Rosetta spacecraft and one of its 14-metre-long solar wings, with 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko in the background. Two images with different exposure times were combined to bring out the faint details in this very high contrast situation. The comet's active 'neck' region is clearly visible, with streams of dust and gas extending away from the comet.

Credit: ESA/Rosetta/Philae/CIVA.

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