EUROPE - A WORLD LEADER IN PLANETARY SCIENCE

Planetary science covers the study of our Solar System and planets around other stars. It is an interdisciplinary field that spans physics, chemistry, astronomy and geophysics, robotic and human exploration of other planets, as well as the search for extraterrestrial life.

Since 2005, the European Union (EU) has supported the European planetary science community with over €40 million funding, including €9.945 million for the Europlanet 2020 Research Infrastructure (RI) to integrate planetary science across the European Research Area.

Europe has world-leading facilities and a community of planetary scientists comprising around 5000 researchers and postgraduate students in more than 20 countries and 200 research institutes. EU funding has played a vital role in enabling Europe’s diverse planetary community to carry out coordinated activities. This coordination maximises the scientific return from investment in planetary missions through the European Space Agency, national and international programmes.

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EsaMars Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) goes into orbit around Mars.

Credit: ESA/ATG medialab