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Strategies for Landing on Small Bodies

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The investigation of small bodies, comets and asteroids, can contribute substantially to our understanding of the formation and history of the Solar System. In situ observations by Landers play a prominent role in this field.

Currently there is one Mission, Rosetta, that carries a Lander - Philae - on its way to the target body. Philae will land on comet Churyumov Gerasimenko in November 2014 and perform numerous experiments with a set of ten scientific instruments.

Various other missions including Landers are currently studied (e.g. Marco Polo or Don Quixote) thus, a summary of possible techniques and scenarios is useful. We will address the mission options and compare applicable technologies with the solutions, chosen for Philae.