



Planetary Landers and Entry Probes

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The authors present an overview and highlights from their new book *Planetary Landers and Entry Probes*, published by Cambridge University Press (ISBN-10: 0521820022; ISBN-13: 9780521820028). The book provides a concise but broad overview of the engineering, science and flight history of planetary landers and atmospheric entry probes—vehicles designed to explore the atmospheres and surfaces of other worlds. It covers engineering aspects specific to such vehicles, such as entry shields, parachutes, landing systems and planetary protection—aspects that are not usually treated in traditional spacecraft engineering texts. Examples are drawn from over thirty lander and entry probe designs that have been used for lunar and planetary missions since the early 1960s. The authors provide detailed illustrations of many vehicle designs from space programmes worldwide, and give basic information on their missions and payloads, irrespective of a mission's success or failure. Several missions are discussed in more detail, to demonstrate the broad range of challenges involved and the solutions implemented. *Planetary Landers and Entry Probes* ('PLEP') will form an important reference for professionals, academic researchers and graduate students involved in planetary science, aerospace engineering and space mission development.