



RSPP seminars

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“Cometary dust from the nanometre to the metre scale - results from Rosetta”

Rosetta was the first mission to rendezvous with a comet, allowing it to make long-term measurements in the inner coma of comet 67P, sampling the dust, gas and plasma environment and studying the nucleus surface for over two years.

The MIDAS instrument on-board Rosetta was the first Atomic Force Microscope (AFM) launched into space. Its aim was to collect and image cometary dust with resolutions in the nanometre to micrometre range. Proposed only a few years after the development of the technique of AFM, MIDAS was and is a completely novel instrument.

Together with the dust instruments GIADA and COSIMA and the remote sensing payload of Rosetta, measurements were possible over a size range of nanometres to metres. Some of the key results so far will be summarised here, along with their implications for the understanding of comet formation and cometary activity.

Tuesday, March 7th at 2 pm in Physics LTA