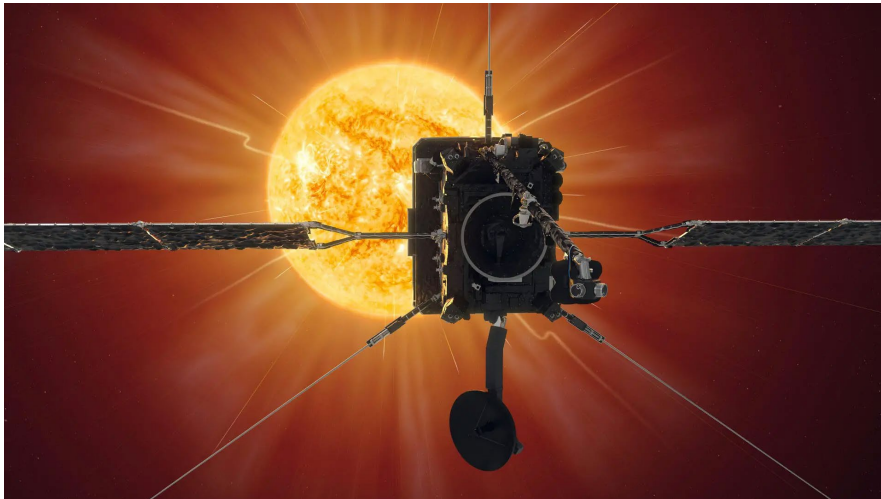


**10 February**



(Picture credits: ESA/Medialab)

***Solar Orbiter launch anniversary (2020)***

**Space agency/country:** NASA  
**Mission:** *Solar Orbiter*

*Solar Orbiter* is one of the most important and complex missions in Sun-observation satellite history. It was a joint mission between the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA. The probe was launched on 10 February 2020, and the first image was released in July of the same year. That particular picture was taken 42 million kilometers from the Sun, the closest distance reached by an artificial satellite to date. The image showed, for the first time ever, the Sun's polar region. *Solar Orbiter's* main goal is to measure the magnetic fields, waves, energetic particles and plasma originating from the Sun. This mission aims to help us better understand the composition of the solar wind and the solar surface.

**For more information:**

[https://www.esa.int/Science\\_Exploration/Space\\_Science/Solar\\_Orbiter](https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Space_Science/Solar_Orbiter)

<https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/solar-orbiter/mission>