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(Picture credits: *JHU/APL*)

***Parker Solar Probe launch anniversary (2018)***

**Space agency/country:** NASA  
**Mission:** *Parker Solar Probe*

The *Parker Solar Probe* mission was named after the S. Chandrasekhar Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus Eugene Parker from the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago (USA), in honour of his significant contributions to space science, including to studies of the energy of the solar wind, solar plasmas and magnetic fields. Parker was the first scientist to suggest the existence of the solar wind. The *Parker Solar Probe* holds the record for the closest approach of an artificial satellite to the Sun. To date, it has been travelling in excess of 6 million kilometers at one hundred kilometers per hour. Since maneuvering a spacecraft close to the Sun requires much power, NASA selected one of its most powerful launch vehicles for this mission, a United Launch Alliance *Delta IV* Heavy rocket.

**For more information:**

<https://science.nasa.gov/missions/parker-solar-probe/10-things-to-know-about-parker-solar-probe/>

<https://parkersolarprobe.jhuapl.edu/The-Mission/index.php>