

## Transcript

### Planet Mercury – International collaboration

#### **JOHANNES BENKHOFF:**

The goal of the European Space Agency is that we do our things together in Europe. So when we plan a mission like this one to Mercury, we involve all member state countries. And even when we built the spacecraft, each country gets a little bit, a little task to do to bring the spacecraft together. So we have instruments from Finland, from the UK, from Italy, a lot from France, from Portugal, from Spain, and even we have a guest instrument from Russia. So it's really wide cooperation, and doing these things together with the Japanese brings even an additional aspect. We have now a different culture also involved in this thing. And that is really something special and fascinating.

#### **MASAKI FUJIMOTO:**

Well, BepiColombo wouldn't have happened without international cooperation, at least from our side. We are much smaller than ESA. So we're really having the help of ESA to make this wonderful mission happen. When Bepi was emerging, people kind of complained. Hey, international cooperation is too complicated. Are you sure you're going to make it happen? It's a long mission. And all of these things, it's complicated. But because it's complicated, we have stronger ties among the team members. And that makes us survive, keep alive and kicking for more than 10 years.

#### **JONATHAN MCAULIFFE:**

The different nationalities have different ways of working, different ways of thinking and different areas of expertise and focus. And I think most of these complement each other. Some of these raise challenges. Not simply linguistic, but others, political. But on the whole, it's definitely a constructive interference, if you put it that way. You can't do anything on your own.

#### **JUHANI HUOVELIN:**

I think that scientists are sort of more open. And that makes us examples, pioneers in very fruitful collaboration that would be applied also in economics and everything else.

#### **KARSTEN SEIFERLIN:**

Mixing people, mixing groups, finding out that others even if they may look different or have a different history, have common goals, common beliefs, common feelings. And yeah, I think that should help. And I think projects like this that go across countries really help to make it a peaceful world.

#### **LOUISE PROCKTER:**

We've been holding joint meetings for several years now, where the two teams, the Messenger and BepiColombo teams have got together, and we have been discussing both the science results from Messenger and also the science goals for BepiColombo. So this has been invaluable.

**MASAKI FUJIMOTO:**

Sometimes international cooperation is really crucial to make things happen. Maybe slowly, but steadily. That's how I look at this. And then we have a plan to work on future missions together. So BepiColumbo is a model. Is the model that we know how to work together.

**VALENTINA GALLUZZI:**

In a field like planetary science, I think it's a must. And it's wonderful, because I don't feel Italian, I feel European. I feel a person of the world.

**EMMA BUNCE:**

That is one of the real positive aspects of working in planetary science in Europe. For me, it's one of the things that I enjoy the most. Being able to interact and work with colleagues from all different European countries is absolutely brilliant. I really enjoy meeting people and working with people from all sorts of different countries. And I see that as a very positive aspect.

I'm sure there are always going to be difficulties in different projects, and I don't think that the fact that it is an international project is a problem. In fact, I think it's a real strength, because it means that different scientists from different communities come together, share their knowledge, and share the sort of perspective on things, look at things in a slightly different way. And that's how we learn. So for me, I think it's a very positive thing.