Scientific objectives of BepiColombo/MMO

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Mercury is nearest planet to the Sun and is considered as the latest planet in the Solar System. The size of Mercury locates between that of Moon and Mars. Despite of this small size of body, Mercury has an intrinsic magnetic field which is discovered by Mariner 10 spacecraft during 3 flybys with Mercury. BepiColombo, which is 5th conerstone mission of ESA, is a mission to planet Mercury. BepiColombo consists of 2 orbiters and 1 lander and is scheduled to launch in 2009. ISAS is expected to develope MMO (Mercury Magnetspheric Orbiter) which is 1 of the 2 orbiters of BepiColombo mission. In this paper, we describe the scientific objectives of MMO and BepiColombo mission.

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