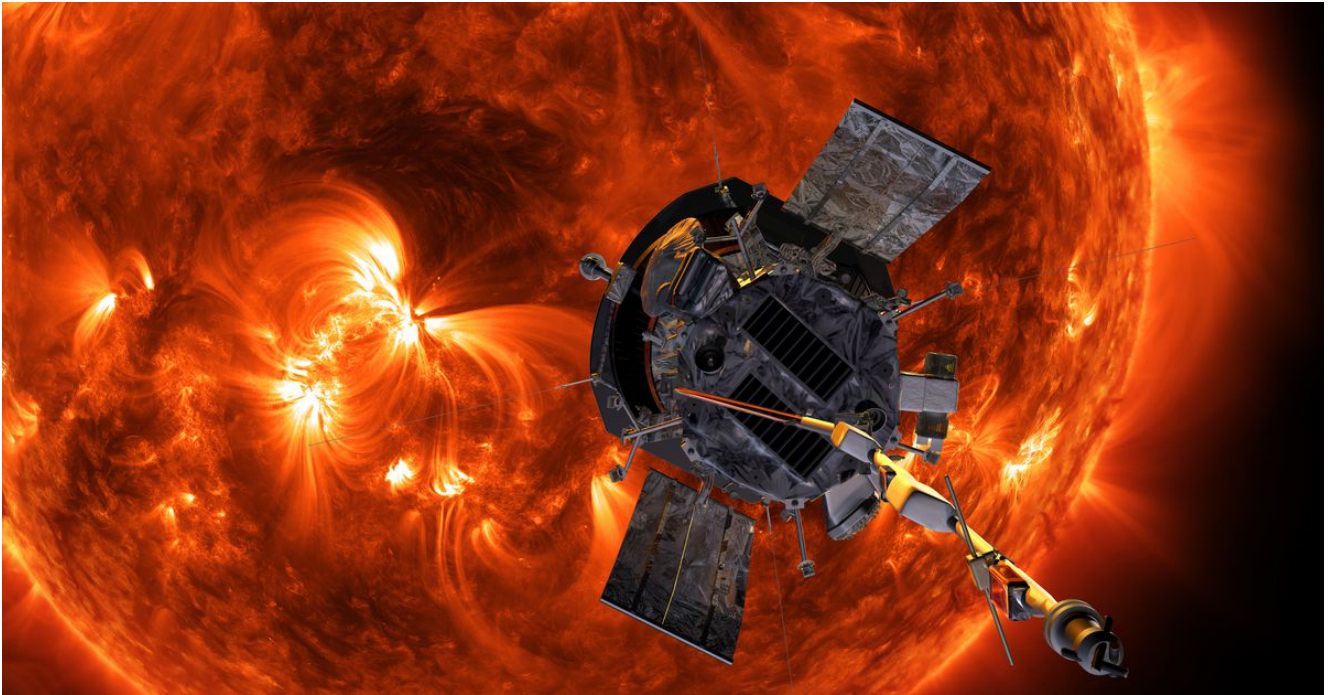


NASA's Parker Solar Probe has survived the closest-ever Sun flyby



NASA sent its Parker Solar Probe just 3.8 million miles from the surface of the Sun – and it survived. The probe transmitted a signal back to Earth on the night of December 26th, “indicating it’s in good health and operating normally,” according to NASA.

The mission marks the closest the Parker Solar Probe – or any human-man object at all – has ever gotten to the Sun. The probe set off on its mission on December 20th, with the closest approach occurring on December 24th as it flew 430,000 miles per hour past the solar surface. Mission operations were out of contact with the probe during this time.

Now that NASA has confirmation of the mission’s success, it expects the Parker Solar Probe to send “detailed telemetry data on its status” on January 1st. The close flyby is supposed to help scientists get a better understanding of solar wind, the Sun’s heat, and how “energetic particles are

accelerated to near light speed.”

The Parker Solar Probe was first launched by NASA and Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in 2018. It’s designed to study the corona – the atmosphere surrounding the sun – which gets so hot. To survive these close encounters, the Parker Solar Probe is equipped with a Sun-facing heat shield that reaches around 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit, while the probe itself remains just 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

<https://www.theverge.com/2024/12/27/24330216/nasa-parker-solar-probe-touch-the-sun>