Live Viewing of Rosetta, First-Ever Soft Landing on a Comet

On November 12, Europe’s Rosetta spacecraft is poised to deliver its payload and attempt the first-ever soft landing on a comet with Philae. Join us to watch live as history is made!

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San Francisco, CA — Over the past decade, Europe’s Rosetta spacecraft has been traveling toward a rendezvous with the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. Its giant solar arrays outstretched like wings, Rosetta is studying the gasses and dust near the comet, searching for clues about the history of the heavens and the origins of life on Earth.

But on November 12, the spacecraft is poised to deliver its payload and attempt the first-ever soft landing on a comet with Philae, its lander. To mark this historic event, swissnex San Francisco and the Chabot Space & Science Center host a live feed in Chabot’s full dome planetarium beginning at 6am (landing is expected at 8am).

Rosetta has orbited the comet since August, readying to deploy Philae. Now the time has come. The viewing at Chabot will incorporate a live stream from the European Space Agency’s mission control, as well as a live link with scientist Katherin Altwegg of the University of Bern, Switzerland, who leads the Rosina experiment, the two big mass spectrometers aboard Rosetta.

Chabot staff astronomers will also be on hand for Q&A sessions before and after the landing. And Dr. Laura Welcher of The Long Now Foundation, Director of Long Now’s own Rosetta Project, will give a presentation about how their Rosetta Disk became part of the ESA’s mission. She’ll show off an actual Rosetta Disk that holds a micro-etched archive of thousands of pages of language documentation.

Doors open at 6am and admission for this event is $7. For more information or to reserve your space, visit swissnexsanfrancisco.org/event/philaelanding/

Join us to make history!

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