Hera mission objectives and payload

Michael Küppers, ESA/ESAC
Hera Mission Objectives (General Considerations)

- Hera is an asteroid deflection mission
  - All primary objectives are related to the asteroid deflection theme
- As a bonus, several other fields can profit from the mission
  - Technology demonstration
  - Asteroid Resource Utilisation ("Mining")
  - Science
- As science is a bonus, it needs to be doable within the existing mission constraints
  - Unless it is a dedicated contribution of ESA’s Science Directorate
Mission Objective 1: Mass of Didymoon

**Measurement:** Series of images of Didymos (200 images in 10 days from 10 km) and altimeter measurements capturing the “wobble” of Didymos due to the gravity of Didymoon. Supported by radio science and cubesats.
Mission Objective 2: Shape and Volume of the Impact Crater

Measurement: High-resolution imaging of crater (10 cm/pixel), possibly of all of Didymoon to detect crater ejecta, fractures, antipodal crater etc. Different viewing geometries.

Bonus: Spectra of unweathered material provide direct comparison of asteroid with analogue meteoroid material.
Mission Objective 3: Density of Didymoon

Needed for impact scaling and porosity

**Measurement:** From mass and volume. Requires shape model with a few meter accuracy from global mapping at various illumination conditions.
Mission Objective 4: Porosity of Didymoon

Measurement: 1) From density and composition measurement, the latter is obtained through vis. and near-IR spectroscopy and volatile composition analysis

2) From cubesat radar and bistatic radar from radio science instrument
Mission Objective 5: Size distribution of near-surface and excavated material

Presence of blocks that are not small compared to the size of the impactor is important (down to few dm size)

**Measurement:** 1) Regional or possibly global mapping of Didymoon
   2) Radar from cubesat and bistatic radar from radio science instrument
Mission Objective 6: Size distribution of near-surface and excavated material

Determination of all orbital parameters and possible libration induced by DART impact

**Measurement:** Orbital parameters from imaging. Libration, spin precession, etc. require images over extended periods of time. Complementary observations with the altimeter.
Mission Objective 7: Surface Strength

**Measurement:** 1) From cubesat bouncing observations and in situ measurements
2) Derived from impactor and crater properties

Marchi et al. 2010
Mission Objective 8: Transport of impact ejecta from Didymoon to Didymos

**Measurement:** Identification of material from Didymoon on Didymos from spectra (unweathered material from the subsurface?) and imaging
Hera baseline payload

**Asteroid Framing Cameras**  
(Visible Imaging in 8 filters)

**PALT**  
(μLidar)

**HYPTIRA** (vis. Hyperspectral imager + thermal channel)

**RADIOSCIENCE**

**APEX Cubesat**
- Vis and near-IR imaging spectrometer
- Volatile Composition Analyzer
- Magnetometer

**JUVENTAS Cubesat**
- Radar
- Accelerometers
- Gravimeter