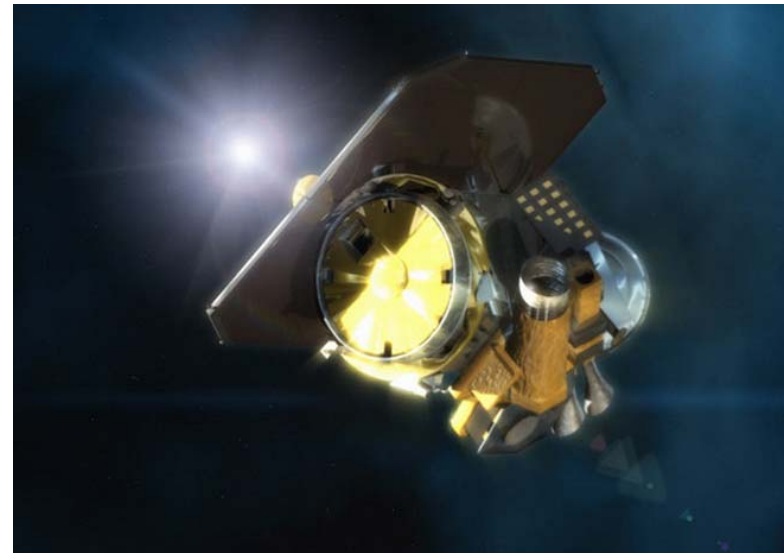


Deep Impact in Deep Trouble

Jade Parker

Summary

- Due to a software glitch, NASA lost contact with the comet-chasing probe Deep Impact in August causing it to spin out of control, may result in probe being lost in space.





What and Where?

- The Deep Impact probe is spinning out of control in space.
- Scientists are in a race against time to communicate with the probe, determine its orientation, and recalibrate the system before the solar-powered battery dies.



When?

- Communication was lost sometime between August 11th and August 14th.



How?

- Deep Impact's computer was reset and NASA is no longer able to communicate or control the spacecraft

Why?

- A software-communications glitch caused the craft's computer to reset



Prevention

- This could be prevented by stocking the probe with a back-up duplicate computer system like the Mars Curiosity rover.