**BepiColombo Stack Assembly B-Roll**

Final assembly of the BepiColombo spacecraft has taken place at the European spaceport at Kourou in French Guiana, ahead of its planned 19 October 2018 launch.

BepiColombo is a joint mission between ESA and the Japanese space agency, JAXA. Europe’s first mission to Mercury, it will explore the planet in unprecedented detail.

The mission consists of two scientific orbiters, a transfer module to propel them to Mercury, and a sunshield. Protected by hand-stitched ceramic thermal blankets, the entire spacecraft is six and a half metres high.

B-roll shows the delicate final assembly of the two orbiters to the transfer module in a clean room at Kourou, ready for the spacecraft to be integrated into its Ariane 5 launcher.

Timelapse footage shows testing of the solar arrays on the transfer module and final assembly.

ESA’s Mercury Transfer Module (MTM) sits at the bottom, its two 15 m-long solar arrays folded for launch. In the middle of the stack is ESA’s Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO). On top is JAXA’s eight-sided Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter. The sunshield will be added about a week before launch.

All B-roll video and timelapse material shot in Kourou cleanroom Sept 2018.

**B-roll contents:**

**10:00:00** ESA slate

**10:00:10** Part 1 - Moving Mercury Transfer Module (on handling adapter) to ground handling equipment, ready to receive the rest of the stack.

**10:03:28** Part 2 - Lifting, transfer and attachment of Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter plus Mercury Planetary Orbiter to Mercury Transfer Module.

**10:07:44** Timelapse of testing and stack assembly

**10:09:51** End slate