

## **Astrophysicists from Granada help NASA in a travel to the Sun to understand solar storms**

LOCATION: Granada

DURATION: 1'33"

**SUMMARY:** Researchers of the Andalusian Astrophysics Institute, located in Granada, are building sophisticated equipment that will go in the Solar Orbiter, a probe that will be launched into space in 2017 with the objective of getting to a distance of 40 million kilometres from the Sun, the closest ever reached. The device that is being manufactured in Granada will permit analysing the properties of solar storms. This mission is a project of the European Space Agency and NASA, and counts on the participation of 25 countries.

### **VTR:**

We admire its beauty from Earth, but the challenge for Science is getting closer than ever.

**JOSÉ CARLOS DEL TORO**  
Researcher

*"We are going to approach up to 40 million kilometres."*

Almost next to it because the distance that separates us from the sun is 150 million kilometres. Also we will be able to see what remains hidden.

**JOSÉ CARLOS DEL TORO**  
Researcher

*"The elliptic is the plane in which planets orbit. We are forced to see the sun from that plane as Solar Orbiter, for the first time, is separating from the plane, and it is going to be able to observe with no precedents, areas such as the poles, which are unreachable from Earth." ."*

In the Andalusian Astrophysics Institute, located in Granada, they prepare the sophisticated equipment that will go in the Solar Orbiter probe, a project of the European Space Agency in collaboration with the NASA. The launching will be in 2017 and this electronic device will allow analysing the properties of solar wind.

**JOSÉ CARLOS DEL TORO**  
Researcher

*"When a solar storm occurs, that material is expelled from the sun with a huge energy at a speed of more than a thousand kilometres per second, and it takes it around two days getting to Earth."*

And may affect communications or cause major blackouts.

**ANTONIO LÓPEZ**  
Researcher

*"It is always a challenge. I have been working in this type of projects for a long time but it is always something new, a new child that comes."*

Its creators are researchers from 25 countries that try to unveil the mysteries of the star that makes life possible in our planet.

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