

Psyche Rocket Information

The Psyche spacecraft is designed with solar electric propulsion, and the scientific payload is expected to include a multispectral imager, a magnetometer, and a gamma-ray spectrometer.

Data shows asteroid 16 Psyche to have a diameter of 222 km (138 mi). Scientists think that 16 Psyche could be the exposed core of an early planet that could have been as large as Mars and lost its surface in a series of violent collisions. Its composition and density match mesosiderite meteorites and it is likely their parent body

The mission is targeting launch in August 2022 and arrive in four years to perform 21 months of science. The spacecraft is scheduled to be built by NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in collaboration with SSL (formerly Space Systems/Loral) and Arizona State University.

It was proposed that the rocket launch might be shared with a separate mission named *Athena*, that would perform a single flyby of asteroid 2 Pallas, the third-largest asteroid in the Solar System. In May 2020, it was announced that the Falcon Heavy carrying Psyche would include two smallsat secondary payloads to study the Martian atmosphere and binary asteroids, named *EscaPADE* (*Escape and Plasma Acceleration and Dynamics Explorers*) and *Janus* respectively, but in September 2020, the *EscaPADE* Mars atmosphere probe was removed from the plan.

All information was pulled from both NASA and Wikipedia