Community of general scientists

Juno spacecraft

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Juno is a [NASA space probe](#) orbiting the planet [Jupiter](#). It was built by [Lockheed Martin](#) and is operated by [NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory](#). In Roman mythology, Jupiter was the king of the gods and Juno was the Queen, after whom the month June is named. The spacecraft was launched from [Cape Canaveral Air Force Station](#) on 5 August 2011 [UTC](#), as part of the [New Frontiers program](#).^[6] *Juno* entered a [polar orbit](#) of Jupiter on 5 July 2016 UTC,^{[4][7]} to begin a scientific investigation of the planet.^[8] After completing its mission, *Juno* will be intentionally deorbited into Jupiter's atmosphere.^[8]

Juno's mission is to measure Jupiter's composition, [gravitational field](#), [magnetic field](#), and [polar magnetosphere](#). It will also search for clues about how the planet formed, including whether it has a rocky core, the amount of water present within the deep atmosphere, [mass distribution](#), and its deep winds, which can reach speeds up to 620 km/h (390 mph).^[9]

Juno is the second spacecraft to orbit Jupiter, after the [nuclear powered *Galileo orbiter*](#), which orbited from 1995 to 2003.^[8] Unlike all earlier spacecraft sent to the outer planets,^[8] *Juno* is powered by [solar arrays](#), commonly used by satellites orbiting Earth and working in the [inner Solar System](#), whereas [radioisotope thermoelectric generators](#) are commonly used for missions to the [outer Solar System](#) and beyond. For *Juno*, however, the three largest solar array wings ever deployed on a planetary probe play an integral role in stabilizing the spacecraft as well as generating power.^[10]

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Footnotes

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