

# Astronomy Picture of the Day

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2007 March 1



**Rosetta Over Mars**  
Credit: [ESA](#), [Rosetta Mission](#)

**Explanation:** Panels on ESA's [Rosetta](#) spacecraft appear in the foreground of [this intriguing image](#) of Mars recorded on February 25 at a range of about 1,000 kilometers. Launched in March 2004, Rosetta was near its [closest approach](#) to the Red Planet during a [gravity assist](#) flyby maneuver and is ultimately destined to rendezvous with a comet designated [67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko](#). Below the [comet-chasing](#) spacecraft lies a dark boundary along the martian [Syrtis region](#). But wait ... who took the picture? The picture was actually captured by the imaging system (CIVA) onboard Rosetta's lander, Philae, switched on for testing. The three-legged, box-shaped, 100 kilogram [Philae](#) is scheduled to attempt a landing on the comet nucleus after [Rosetta's](#) rendezvous in November 2014.

**Tomorrow's picture:** eclipse from the Moon

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