

NEAR, the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous, is a spaceship. NEAR's mission is to explore an asteroid called Eros. The journey time to Eros is 35 months and the cost for launching and building NEAR is \$122 million. Four years of this operation will cost \$40 million. Eros was picked as a destination in the hopes of solving a mystery: why do most meteorites not resemble their bigger brothers in space?