



## **Giotto: Britain leads a bold mission to Halley's comet**

Clip taken from 'Destination Titan', BBC Four.

*PROF JOHN ZARNECKI:*

Well, towards the end of the 1970s jobs in British universities were very difficult to come by and I saw an advertisement, which was very hard to resist, to go and work on a project called Giotto.

Now Giotto was Europe's Halley's Comet mission and the job was at the University of Kent to be project manager for the dust instrument.

I applied and I got it so at the end of 1981, we moved to Canterbury on a two-year contract and I ended up staying there 18 years.

Giotto flew 594km from the nucleus of Halley's Comet. I mean, it was remarkably close. And we detected about 30,000 dust particles. These are the particles that make up the tail of a comet.

I think it was a mission that gave Europe confidence that it could really do ambitious things in space.