Astronautical News

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The British Interplanetary Society

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Trump to appoint new NASA administrator

Charles Bolden steps down as NASA administrator as the new US administration takes office. He was appointed by President Obama in May 2009 and confirmed by the Senate that July. Bolden didn't publicly express any desire to stay aboard for a Donald Trump presidency; nor has he apparently been asked to stay. Therefore, as is customary, he leaves office the moment the next president is sworn in. NASA associate administrator Robert Lightfoot, who is currently the agency's highest- ranking civil servant, will become acting administrator after Bolden's departure. Trump's choice for permanent NASA administrator must be confirmed by the Senate. If either Trump or the Senate stalls, how might that affect NASA's long-term plans?

More...

Startups take first step toward orbiting factory Made In Space and Axiom Space, two startups with innovative concepts for making money in orbit, have joined forces to collaborate on developing a private space station to manufacture low-noise fiber-optic cable and other products that require the microgravity environment of low Earth orbit. read more

China's quantum science satellite begins experiments The world's first quantum science and communications satellite has been handed over to Chinese scientists for the official start of experiments to test the phenomena of quantum entanglement and 'unhackable' quantum communication.

Russia, China work on joint high-precision satellite navigation system Russia and China are setting up a joint Differential Corrections and Monitoring (SDCM) high-precision satellite navigation system, China National Space Administration (CNSA) chief representative in Russia Zhang Yuan said.

Breakthrough surveying other galaxies for planets to visit A private plan to visit Alpha Centauri is boosting science on Earth today. Breakthrough's Starshot plan is looking for exoplanets in the 'Goldlocks Zone' of the Alpha Centauri binary system that might support life.

First Singapore satellite launched from the International Space Station The first Singapore satellite launched from the International Space Station took place successfully. Called AOBA VELOX-III, it is a joint project between Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Japan's Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech). It will be conducting tests to evaluate the durability of commercial off-the-shelf microprocessors in space while orbiting at 400km above sea level.

Roscosmos demands $36.7 mln from Khrunichev space centre Russian state corporation Roscosmos filed a lawsuit with the Moscow Commercial Court Centre seeking recovery of 2.2 billion rubles from Khrunichev State Research and Production Space.

One Atlas: the worlds most advanced satellite imagery library Airbus Defence and Space is targeting the defence, intelligence and security community with a new satellite image library offering constantly updated imagery at high resolution.

SpaceX returns to flight with Falcon 9 rocket launch SpaceX has resumed flights, launching a Falcon 9 vehicle from the Vandenberg Air Force Base on the California coast.

Farewell to Eugene Cernan, the last man to walk on the Moon The last man to walk on the moon, Eugene Cernan, has died at the age of 82. The American travelled into space three times, and became the 11th person to walk on the moon and the last to leave his footprints on its surface as commander of Apollo 17, the final manned lunar landing.

Chinese imaging satellites reach orbit after botched launch China has received images from a pair of 0.5-meter high-resolution remote sensing satellites launched in late December last year. According to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), the satellites have reached their operational orbit after a partial launch failure.

No launch for NASA's NEOCam worries asteroid hunters The B612 Foundation reacts to NASA's decision not to fully fund a hazardous asteroid- hunting mission, urging the next administration to pick an infrared space telescope that would seek out near-Earth asteroid threats.

NASA to rely on Soyuz for ISS missions until 2019 If NASA intends to continue sending astronauts to the International Space Station or the Moon, the space agency has little choice but to rely on Roscosmos' Soyuz spacecraft, at least until 2019. NASA filed a "presolicitation" requesting that private firms reach out to NASA if they can transport astronauts to and from the orbital research platform.

China to launch electromagnetic monitoring satellite for earthquake study China will launch a satellite this year to gather electromagnetic data that may be used in monitoring and forecasting earthquakes. According to China's earthquake administrative agencies, the satellite will be launched in the latter half of 2017.

Recent Launch Activities

SpaceX returns to flight with Falcon 9 rocket launch SpaceX has resumed flights, launching a Falcon 9 vehicle from the Vandenberg Air Force Base on the California coast.
(15 January 2017)

KZ-1A lofts small satellites on commercial mission The Kuaizhou-1A (KZ-1A) rocket sent three satellites into space in its first commercial mission.
(10 January 2017)

China launches telecommunication technology test satellite China has successfully launched a telecommunication technology test satellite from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre.
(7 January 2017)

China launches new weather satellite Fengyun-4 China launched a new-generation meteorological satellite, the country's first quantitative remote-sensing satellite in high orbit. The satellite was taken into orbit by a Long March-3B carrier rocket, Xinhua news agency reported. Fengyun-4 is capable of monitoring atmosphere continuously, helping to improve the quality of weather forecasts and prevent catastrophic consequences of natural disasters. China has sent 14 meteorological satellites into space, of which seven are still active.
(1 January 2017)

Development Activities

China to launch electromagnetic monitoring satellite for earthquake study China will launch a satellite this year to gather electromagnetic data that may be used in monitoring and forecasting earthquakes. According to China's earthquake administrative agencies, the satellite will be launched in the latter half of 2017.
(20 January 2017)

Russia, China work on joint high-precision satellite navigation system Russia and China are setting up a joint Differential Corrections and Monitoring (SDCM) high-precision satellite navigation system, China National Space Administration (CNSA) chief representative in Russia Zhang Yuan said.
(18 January 2017)

Russia works on new-generation space radio intelligence system Russia's Defense Ministry continues to develop the Liana Electronic Intelligence Program (ELINT) using Lotos-S satellites, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said. Lotos-S and Pion-NKS radio surveillance satellites are planned to replace two aged Soviet Tselina satellites and create the upgraded ELINT system for land and sea military surveillance.
(14 January 2017)

ISRO set to increase vehicle capacity to accommodate more space launches India would maximise its rocket capability to launch more satellites for maximum return on investment, its space agency chief said on Wednesday. "By launching 103 satellites together using one rocket next month, we are trying to maximise its capability and optimally utilise it for maximum return on investment," Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar said.
(14 January 2017)

Newly announced mission could solve the mystery of water on asteroid psyche Discovered in 1852 by Italian astronomer Annibale de Gasparis, Psyche is one of the ten most-massive asteroids in the asteroid belt. Although Psyche is thought to be a world made of metal, scientists have recently found the presence of water on this minor planet. The new findings which baffled researchers, could be confirmed and further studied by a newly announced NASA mission.
(11 January 2017)

Russia to produce new EgyptSat-A satellite instead of failed EgyptSat-2 The EgyptSat-A satellite will be produced by Russia's Rocket and Space Corporation (RSC) Energia instead of failed EgyptSat-2 is scheduled to be launched in 2019, Chief Executive Officer of the corporation Vladimir Solntsev told TASS.
(10 January 2017)

Lockheed Martin to build NASA's trojan asteroid explorer Lucy Lockheed Martin has been selected to design, build and operate the spacecraft for NASA's Lucy mission. One of NASA's two new Discovery Program missions, Lucy will perform the first reconnaissance of the Jupiter Trojan asteroids orbiting the sun in tandem with the gas giant. The Lucy spacecraft will launch in 2021 to study six of these exciting worlds.
(9 January 2017)

Franco-Chinese satellite to detect gamma-ray bursts The board of French space agency CNES green-lighted its contribution to the Franco- Chinese Space-based Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM) mission to study gamma-ray bursts.
(5 January 2017)

Launch Failures and Investigations

Japan aborts mini-rocket mission shortly after liftoff Japan's space agency has aborted a mission to use a mini-rocket to send a satellite into orbit after the spacecraft stopped sending data to ground control shortly after liftoff. The SS-520 rocket, which stands around the size of a power pole, lifted off at the Uchinoura Space Centre in southern Kagoshima Prefecture.

ISS Activities

Space Station astronauts take spacewalk to upgrade power system On Jan. 6, 2017, NASA astronauts Shane Kimbrough and Peggy Whitson spent more than six hours spacewalking outside the International Space Station to upgrade the outpost's power system. See photos from the spacewalk here.
(9 January 2017)

Japan's new small satellite deployer debuts Japan's STAR-C tethered CubeSat duo departed the International Space Station as 2016 drew to a close.
(4 January 2017)

SpaceX mission delay could cost NASA hundreds of millions of dollars It looked like Boeing and SpaceX would give NASA what it paid for: a means of putting American astronauts back into space, under our own power, by late 2017, or early 2018 at the latest. In succeeding, they'd save NASA from the necessity of paying Roscosmos another $490 million (or more, given the steep price increase of the last contract) to continue ferrying astronauts to space. This aim may have slipped.
(27 December 2016)

Space Network upgrade to double data rates on ISS The Space Network, the wireless communication system connecting astronauts inside the International Space Station to their colleagues on the ground, is getting an upgrade. The boost will double data rates.
(16 December 2016)

NASA Communications Network to Double Space Station Data Rates Life aboard the International Space Station depends upon massive amounts of data, used for everything from commanding the station to providing real-time high-definition video and data on hundreds of science and technology experiments, to giving live TV interviews with astronauts.
(14 December 2016)

Space Tourism

Weightless tourism just four years away Ot-of-this-world experiences will be possible, according to the plans of China's newly established commercial space company, which expects to start providing high-atmosphere and space journeys for people with enough cash as early as 2020.
(13 November 2016)

Clocks 'failed' onboard Europe's navigation satellites Europe's beleaguered Galileo satnav has suffered another setback, with clocks failing onboard a number of satellites in space, the European Space Agency said Wednesday. Designed to render Europe independent from America's GPS, the 10 billion-euro ($11 billion) project may experience further delays as the cause of the failure is investigated, ESA director general Jan Woerner told journalists in Paris.
(19 January 2017)

Cubesat testbeds trim risk and save millions Tom and Jerry are more than an old-school cartoon, they are now an important cubesat experiment.
(13 January 2017)

China to offer global satellite navigation service by 2020 China plans to form a BeiDou network consisting of 35 satellites for global navigation services by 2020, said a white paper released by the State Council Information Office. The country plans to start providing basic services to countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-century Maritime Silk Road in 2018, said the document titled "China's Space Activities in 2016."
(2 January 2017)

NASA releases new Greenland glacier data NASA's Oceans Melting Greenland (OMG) mission has released preliminary data on the heights of Greenland coastal glaciers from its first airborne campaign in March 2016. The new data show the dramatic increase in coverage that the mission provides to scientists and other interested users. Finalized data on glacier surface heights, accurate within three feet (one meter) or less vertically, will be available by Feb. 1, 2017.
(27 December 2016)

Preparing for air traffic control via satellite ESA recently completed its first flight trials using satellites to help bring Europe closer to its goal of modernising air traffic control.
(21 December 2016)

Galileo begins serving the globe Europe's own Galileo satellite navigation system has begun operating, with the satellites in space delivering positioning, navigation and timing information to users around the globe.
(17 December 2016)

Lockheed Martin and USAF move ahead with GPS backup ground system upgrade The U.S. Air Force approved Lockheed Martin's design to upgrade the current GPS satellite ground control system with new capabilities that will enable it to operate more powerful and accurate GPS III satellites.
(15 December 2016)

Europe's own satnav, Galileo, due to go live Seventeen years and more than 10 billion euros ($11 billion) later, Europe's Galileo satnav system is set to go live Thursday, promising to outperform US and Russian rivals while boosting regional self-reliance.
(14 December 2016)

High-precision system for real-time navigation data of GLONASS ready for service A global high-precision system for obtaining the real-time navigation data has passed state tests and is ready to be put into operation as part of the GLONASS navigation system, Russia's Roscosmos state space corporation said in a statement.
(26 November 2016)

ESA expands space weather services A major expansion in the space weather information and services provided by ESA will help satellites in space and networks like power grids on Earth to cope with solar eruptions. Scientists, engineers and researchers across Europe are working with ESA to develop a space weather warning system as part of the Agency's Space Situational Awareness programme.
(23 November 2016)

Optical clock technology tested in space for first time For the first time, an optical clock has traveled to space, surviving harsh rocket launch conditions and successfully operating under the microgravity that would be experienced on a satellite. This demonstration brings optical clock technology much closer to implementation in space, where it could eventually allow GPS-based navigation with centimeter-level location precision.
(22 November 2016)

Russian space agency may launch up to 4 Glonass navigation satellites in 2017 Russia's Roscosmos space agency may launch up to four Glonass navigation satellites in 2017, Deputy Director General for Automatic Space Complexes Mikhail Khailov said. According to him, the launches will be carried out if operating satellites are out of order.
(12 November 2016)

Italy on the move Scientists are analysing Sentinel-1 radar images from before and after the 30 October earthquake that struck central Italy to reveal just how much the ground has shifted.
(3 November 2016)

Indian government unveils satellite surveillance to curb illegal mining The mining surveillance system (MSS), a pan-India surveillance network using latest satellite technology, to check illegal mining.
(1 November 2016)

The future of radar - scientific benefits and potential of TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X The German satellite duo TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X have consistently delivered one-of-a- kind Earth observation data since 2007 and 2010, hence shaping the international research landscape. Now, scientific users from across the globe have gathered for the TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X Science Meeting at the German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt; DLR) in Oberpfaffenhofen, where they will discuss the results obtained from the data and define requirements for future remote sensing technology.
(19 October 2016)

Sky and Space Global, GomSpace partner on nano-satellite assembly Sky and Space Global is partnering with Denmark's GomSpace to assemble its three initial nano-satellites and get them ready for launch in the first half of next year.
(18 October 2016)

Smallsat Constellations Seen Adding Debris Risk As the number of smallsat constellations grows, international satellite tracking bodies see increased risk of space debris problems unless mitigations measures are adopted.
(8 October 2016)

US, China will meet this year to talk space debris A senior U.S. State Department official said China and the United States plan to hold a second set of talks later this year to discuss how their militaries operate in space.
(1 October 2016)

Do not put all your ships in one satellite network It is a risky business putting all future satellite communications in one basket – thankfully not many shipowners and managers do. Incidents on one US rocket launch pad and an issue with a key high throughput satellite highlight the problems that constellation operators face. It also demonstrates the risks ship operators face with choosing providers of satellite communications.
(30 September 2016)

Lockheed gets $395 million GPS III Space Vehicle contract modification Lockheed Martin Space Systems has been awarded a $395 million U.S. Air Force contract modification for work on the GPS III Space Vehicle programme. The deal covers space vehicles 9 and 10. Work will be performed in Colorado. The expected completion date is August 2022.
(27 September 2016)

Tracking the world's boats by satellite to catch illegal fishing from space Global Fishing Watch, a tool launched publicly on September 15, maps out broadcast data that tracks ships using satellites. The tool can track the path of ships over time, and identify suspicious patterns that indicate either overfishing or illegal fishing.
(24 September 2016)

China's quantum science satellite begins experiments The world's first quantum science and communications satellite has been handed over to Chinese scientists for the official start of experiments to test the phenomena of quantum entanglement and 'unhackable' quantum communication.
(19 January 2017)

Breakthrough surveying other galaxies for planets to visit A private plan to visit Alpha Centauri is boosting science on Earth today. Breakthrough's Starshot plan is looking for exoplanets in the 'Goldlocks Zone' of the Alpha Centauri binary system that might support life.
(18 January 2017)

Curiosity finds Mars rock that may be a meteorite made from iron NASA's Curiosity rover took a picture that appears to show a new iron-nickel meteorite on Mars, one of only eight that have been discovered by rovers there so far
(18 January 2017)

Eutelsat America's all-electric satellite enters service after seven-month journey The second of two all-electric satellites fleet operator Eutelsat gained through its acquisition of Satmex began service Jan. 16 after finishing a seven-month journey to its orbital location. Eutelsat 117 West B launched last June on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with ABS-2A, a similar all-electric satellite Boeing built for Bermuda-based ABS. Both satellites formed the second set in a four-satellite order paired with Falcon 9 dual launches.
(17 January 2017)

Chinese imaging satellites reach orbit after botched launch China has received images from a pair of 0.5-meter high-resolution remote sensing satellites launched in late December last year. According to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), the satellites have reached their operational orbit after a partial launch failure.
(15 January 2017)

Thousands of cosmic distances now catalogued The universe just got an address book. A new NASA catalogue of objects will help scientists identify the distance of tens of thousands of objects that are so far away they date back to the beginning of the universe.
(9 January 2017)

Mars Odyssey rebounds from Safe Mode Mars Odyssey is resuming science observations this week, following a Dec. 26 safe mode incident.
(5 January 2017)

Odyssey recovering from precautionary pause in activity NASA's Mars Odyssey orbiter, which has been in service at Mars since October 2001, put itself into safe mode - a protective standby status - on Dec. 26, while remaining in communication with Earth. The Odyssey project team has diagnosed the cause - an uncertainty aboard the spacecraft about its orientation with regard to Earth and the sun - and is restoring the orbiter to full operations.
(2 January 2017)

Looking ahead: Space exploration in 2017 An exciting year lies ahead for science and planetary spaceflight - by NASA and by other spacefaring nations.
(1 January 2017)

Russia plans early February Progress return to flight Russia has tentatively scheduled the next Progress launch for early February, pending the outcome of an ongoing investigation.
(31 December 2016)

Researchers dial in to 'thermostat' in Earth's upper atmosphere Scientists have known that solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) - which release electrically charged plasma from the sun - can damage satellites, cause power outages on Earth and disrupt GPS service. Now it has been determined that when such powerful CMEs come off the sun and speed toward Earth, they create shock waves much like supersonic aircraft create sonic booms. While the shock waves from CMEs pour energy into Earth's upper atmosphere, puffing it up and heating it, they also cause the formation of the trace chemical nitric oxide, which then rapidly cools and shrinks it.
(19 December 2016)

Cassini Probe Will Have Busy Final Year at Titan Saturn's moon Titan is being used by scientists to better understand the Earth's atmosphere. One day, it could give scientist a clue about the likelihood of non-Earthlike lifeforms evolving in the universe.
(6 December 2016)

ESA's new Mars orbiter prepares for first science The ExoMars orbiter is preparing to make its first scientific observations at Mars during two orbits of the planet. The Trace Gas Orbiter, or TGO, a joint endeavour between ESA and Roscosmos, arrived at Mars on 19 October. It entered orbit, as planned, on a highly elliptical path that takes it from between 230 and 310 km above the surface to around 98 000 km every 4.2 days.
(22 November 2016)

The Universe has ten times more galaxies than scientists thought More than a trillion galaxies are lurking in the depths of space, a new census of galaxies in the observable universe has found ?? 10 times more galaxies than were previously thought to exist.
(31 October 2016)

ExoMars mission continues to thrive despite loss of lander Despite the apparent loss of the Schiaparelli lander, the other half of the ExoMars 2016 mission, the Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO), has successfully entered the Red Planet's orbit and will continue to function as expected, officials from the European Space Agency (ESA) have confirmed.
(28 October 2016)

Tracking waves from sunspots gives new solar insight While it often seems unvarying from our viewpoint on Earth, the sun is constantly changing. Material courses through not only the star itself, but throughout its expansive atmosphere. Understanding the dance of this charged gas is a key part of better understanding our Sun.
(26 October 2016)

Going out in a blaze of glory: Cassini's Grand Finale With the conclusion of the international Cassini mission set for 15 September 2017, the spacecraft is poised to soon begin a thrilling two-part endgame. Cassini enters the first part of this denouement on 30 November 2016, when the spacecraft begins a series of 20 passes just beyond the outer edge of the main rings.
(23 October 2016)

Schiaparelli Mars probe's parachute 'jettisoned too early' ESA's Schiaparelli lander did not behave as expected as it headed down to the surface of Mars. Telemetry data recovered from the probe during its descent indicates that its parachute was jettisoned too early. The rockets it was supposed to use to bring itself to a standstill just above the ground also appeared to fire for too short a time. The European Space Agency has not yet conceded that the lander crashed but the mood is not positive.
(20 October 2016)

Giant telescope in China joins international hunt for extraterrestrial life China's newest radio telescope, the largest in the world, will work with the privately-funded Breakthrough Initiatives organization to hunt for signs of intelligent life beyond Earth.
(16 October 2016)

MinXSS CubeSat brings new information to study of solar flares Along with the visible light and warmth constantly emitted by our sun comes a whole spectrum of X-ray and ultraviolet radiation that streams toward Earth. A new CubeSat - a miniature satellite that provides a low-cost platform for missions - is now in space observing a particular class of X-ray light that has rarely been studied.
(12 October 2016)

Schiaparelli readied for Mars landing The commands that will govern the Schiaparelli lander's descent and touchdown on Mars were uploaded to ESA's ExoMars spacecraft, enroute to the Red Planet.
(9 October 2016)

Cassini data reveal subsurface ocean on Saturn's moon Dione Subsurface oceans are all the rage. Titan and Enceladus have one. Europa and Pluto probably have one. Ceres might have one. Now, Saturn's moon Dione is getting in on the action. In a new study in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, scientists argue gravity data collected by Cassini reveal the presence of an underground ocean.
(7 October 2016)

More evidence for an ocean inside Pluto A simulation of Sputnik Planum's formation supports the idea of a deep, salty ocean.
(3 October 2016)

Mission complete: Rosetta's journey ends in daring descent to comet ESA's historic Rosetta mission concluded as planned, with the controlled impact onto the comet it had been investigating for more than two years.
(30 September 2016)

Chandra detects low-energy X-rays from Pluto NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory has detected low-energy X-rays coming from Pluto.
(28 September 2016)

THEMIS sees Auroras move to the rhythm of Earth's magnetic field The majestic auroras have captivated humans for thousands of years, but their nature - the fact that the lights are electromagnetic and respond to solar activity - was only realized in the last 150 years. Thanks to coordinated multi-satellite observations and a worldwide network of magnetic sensors and cameras, close study of auroras has become possible over recent decades.
(27 September 2016)

Europa moon 'spewing water jets' Further evidence has been obtained to show that Jupiter's icy moon Europa throws jets of water out into space. Scientists first reported the behaviour in 2013 using the Hubble telescope, but have now made a follow-up sighting. It is significant because Europa, with its huge subsurface ocean of liquid water, is one of the most likely places to find microbial life beyond Earth.
(27 September 2016)

Russia-China joint space studies centre may be created in southeastern Russia A joint-working space centre of Russian and Chinese specialists could be built in Russia's southeastern Zabaikalsky Territory, the press service of the region's head said in a statement. A centre for joint work of Russian and Chinese specialists in the sphere of space studies could be built in Russia's southeastern Zabaikalsky Territory as a part of the comprehensive plan.
(19 January 2017)

First Singapore satellite launched from the International Space Station The first Singapore satellite launched from the International Space Station took place successfully. Called AOBA VELOX-III, it is a joint project between Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Japan's Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech). It will be conducting tests to evaluate the durability of commercial off-the-shelf microprocessors in space while orbiting at 400km above sea level.
(17 January 2017)

Lightfoot, Radzanowski will head NASA temporarily Associate NASA Administrator Robert Lightfoot will take over as acting administrator on 20 January.
(14 January 2017)

Trump and space: panel forecasts changes to come As Trump's "landing team" touches down at NASA, science community members mull ways to interact with politics.
(11 January 2017)

ISRO encourages Indian startups. The Indian Space Research Organisation is luring young entrepreneurs to utilise massive amounts of geo-spatial data procured through its series of earth-mapping satellites to launch start-ups and earn in millions in the years to come via consultative services to respective users.
(7 January 2017)

Commercial space player wants clarity on NASA's role An emerging U.S. commercial space sector stands to benefit if the Trump administration can decide sooner rather than later whether NASA is to continue with efforts to transition its human spaceflight pursuits from low Earth orbit to deep space.
(3 January 2017)

Russia to double number of space launches in 2017 Director-General Igor Komarov said that Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos plans to launch twice as many rockets into space in 2017 as in the outgoing year. Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos plans to launch twice as many rockets into space in 2017 as in the outgoing year, its Director-General said.
(2 January 2017)

Brazilian satellite manufacturer seeks new business as it completes its first satellite Brazil's emerging domestic satellite manufacturer Visiona Tecnologia Espacial is building up a remote sensing business and weighing a small satellite project in order to gain more experience.
(1 January 2017)

exactEarth to study Small Vessel Tracking exactEarth has been awarded a 1.1 million pound grant from the UK Space Agency (UKSA) under its 'International Partnerships Programme' (IPP). The IPP funding will support the operational deployment of exactEarth's Satellite AIS-based small vessel tracking technology "exactTrax" to improve safety of life at sea (SOLAS) for South Africa's small boat owners and operators.
(29 December 2016)

ISRO to launch three rovers to the Moon on a single rocket in 2017 For the first time in the history of space exploration, the Indian Space Research Organisation will launch three rovers to the Moon placed on a single rocket. The three rovers, one of which is India's first private mission to the moon by Team Indus, will be sent into space using ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-Xl (PSLV-X1). The other two rovers will be from Japan.
(28 December 2016)

China outlines its space exploration ambitions China released a new white paper on its policy and activities in space, outlining ambitious deep space exploration, human spaceflight and space science projects as major priorities for the years up to 2020 and beyond.
(28 December 2016)

Russia prioritizing space exploration with maiden launches, new projects Russia is planning to orbit 44 satellites by 2025. It will increase the constellation of the Russian spacecraft to 73 in 2025. Roscosmos intends to develop a new medium-class carrier rocket, Phoenix before 2025. Financing of its development is scheduled to begin in 2018. Cargo capacity of the carrier rocket will reach up to 15 metric tons. Also, Russia plans to launch the development of a super-heavy carrier rocket. The new carrier rocket will allow Russia to launch a manned spaceflight to explore deep space.
(21 December 2016)

India Inc joins hands to bid for moon mission An Indian aerospace start-ups's plans to send a mission to moon as part of the Google's Lunar XPRIZE challenge has received a major boost in funding from local corporate houses and entrepreneurs. A Bengaluru-based start-up has found the surprise backing of India's leading corporate houses and entrepreneurs to fulfill its dream of sending a rover to the moon.
(11 December 2016)

UAE launches national space policy The UAE Space Agency issued the Arab world's first national space policy - the first step to formulating laws for the industry. "The policy is just like a torch guiding us to where we have to go," said Dr Mohammed Al Ahbabi, the agency's director general.
(10 December 2016)

UAE to facilitate sending tourists to space in future The UAE is trying to create an environment in the space sector to facilitate sending tourists to space in future, a senior official told journalists.
(8 December 2016)

Chinese space exploration plans unveiled The Chinese Academy of Sciences' National Space Science Center has officially unveiled five space exploration plans to be accomplished during the 13th Five Year Plan period (2016- 20).
(7 December 2016)

Indian X Prize team secures launch contract with ISRO TeamIndus, an Indian team competing in the Google Lunar X Prize, announced that it has a launch contract for its lunar lander mission with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
(4 December 2016)

UK commits to European collaboration on science and exploration, satellite technology and services UK Space Agency allocates more than £1.4 billion over the next five years to European Space Agency programmes at the Council of Ministers in Lucerne, Switzerland.
(3 December 2016)

Russia to launch fewer spacecraft in 2016 than US, China for first time The United States and China are on course to surpass Russia in the number of space launches for the first time this year, Roscosmos said. "This year we will for the first time have fewer launches than the United States and China," First Deputy Director General Alexander Ivanov said.
(2 December 2016)

DARPA creating US industry government group for safe operation of space robotics Recent technological advances have made the longstanding dream of on-orbit robotic servicing of satellites a near-term possibility. The potential advantages of that unprecedented capability are enormous. Instead of designing their satellites to accommodate the harsh reality that, once launched, their investments could never be repaired or upgraded, satellite owners could use robotic vehicles.
(2 December 2016)

Brazil to pursue satellite projects: minister Ambitious projects such as satellites that could bring the internet to the remote Amazon and construction of Brazil's first nuclear submarine will proceed despite a deep economic downturn, the defense minister told AFP. Raul Jungmann said he is in France to take delivery of the first of three communications and defense satellites built by France's Thales.
(30 November 2016)

Russian space sector overcomes failures The Russian space industry has overcome a series of failures and made a considerable breakthrough in space technology, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said. One of the key projects in the Russian space industry is the construction of a super-heavy class rocket, which will make it possible to create a manned lunar base, the Russian deputy prime minister added.
(30 November 2016)

Opportunities

NASA Earth Science Social Video Producer [Fellowship] - Universities Space Research Association (United States)
producers, science writers, data visualizers, animators, and social media professionals at NASA ’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Goddard is home

NASA Earth Science Social Video Producer [Fellowship] - USRA (United States)
producers, science writers, data visualizers, animators, and social media professionals at NASA ’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Goddard is home

Application Developer Ntts - NASA - QTS (United States)
Work Location: NASA Ames Research Center (Mountain View, CA) Minimum Citizenship: US Citizen or Permanent Resident Status Clearance : This position requires

Astrophysics Program Scientists at NASA Headquarters - Astrophysics Division, NASA Headquarters (United States)
NASA seeks one or more visiting Ph.D.-level scientists to serve as Program Scientists in the Astrophysics Division at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC. With a

Branch Customer Services Associate/ NASA HQ - NASA Federal Credit Union (United States)
largest credit unions in the region and top performing in the nation, NASA Federal Credit Union members enjoy banking with an organization that’s well established,

Career Opportunities with NASA NASA Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Program - West Job - SAIC (United States)
Career Opportunities with NASA NASA Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Program - West Virginia (Job Number:422408) *Description:* SAIC is pursuing

EarthCARE MSI Payload AIT Manager
EarthCARE MSI Payload AIT Manager Job Ref 761 Responsible For All phases of planning and execution of Payload level AIT EVT activities during the mission ground test phase. Supporting integration of payload for customer spacecraft level AIT planning. Key Purpose of Job Lead the team during AIT phase to progress the payload from planning of AIT to delivery of payload to customer and support with spacecraft integration. Key Tasks Ensure effective plans are in place to deliver project AIT to the appropriate quality level, within project budget and schedule constraints. Work as a key member of the Core Project team, with the Systems Engineer to advise, guide and concurrently implement the technical direction of the project. Manage test operators and responsible engineers team activities on the project Provide documentation and present at design, test and project reviews for both internal and external audiences Ensure SSTL engineering policies and practices are implemented on the project. ...

EarthCARE Payload AIV Engineer Fixed Term Contract
EarthCARE Payload AIV Engineer Fixed Term Contract Job Ref 762 Responsible For Ownership and operation of the VNS instrument to be delivered by subcontractor in 2017 which forms part of the MSI payload. The role will involve liaising with TNO engineers to ensure successful delivery, operation and integration of the VNS on the MSI payload. Ownership and operation of the Deliverable Optical Ground Support Equipment DOGSE for both the VNS supplied by TNO and the TIR. This will likely involve modifications to TIR DOGSE to address known problems. Working with the Systems Engineer to support data acquisition and adaption of software used on the MSI instrument. Key Tasks Take ownership of the VNS instrument which will include Preparation for delivery and acceptance of the instrument from TNO. Work with TNO engineers to fully understand operation and care of the instrument including software controls. Contribute to reviews and progress meetings. Assist with integration of the instrument onto ...

Environmental Protection Specialist (NASA Ames) - Leidos (United States)
opening for an Environmental Protection Specialist to support its contract at NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA. The Environmental Protection Specialist

Fire Protection Engineer - NASA - Chenega Corporation (United States)
CHENEGA INFINITY, LLC **Company Job Title:** Fire Protection Engineer, NASA **Chenega Job Title:** Fire Protection Engineer **Clearance:** Must be able to obtain and

Galileo FOC Payload RF Systems Engineer RFNavigation

Galileo FOC Payload RF Systems Engineer RFNavigation Job Ref 756 Reports to GNSS Engineering Manager Key Purpose of Role Galileo FOC payload RF systems engineer including supplier data review, test results review and analysis anomaly and NRB investigations system level verification modelling and requirements closeout, and presentation of information to stakeholders at all levels. Key Tasks Responsibilities Supplier data review and engineering assessment of RF unit and clocktiming system performance and analysis of effects at system level Assessment of performance including review of payload test results and telemetry, leading anomaly investigations and holding customer reviews System level modelling and analysis of navigation system performance Matlab Customer facing presentation of results, analysis and technical justifications Support to inorbittesting and validation Providing inputs into operations Person Specification Qualifications Degree in relevant engineering subject Experienc...

Ground Station Integration System Engineer
About us SCISYS Deutschland GmbH provides professional engineering and consultancy services supporting space programmes and missions. We have a strong presence at ESOC and EUMETSAT, as well as serving all ESA sites and spacecraft primes. Our team is composed of university graduates and experienced professionals, comprising some of the most knowledgeable, dedicated and talented engineers across Europe. Our services cover the whole life cycle of space programmes from early concepts to operations. Our Space Division provides a dynamic, supportive and friendly atmosphere in which you are encouraged to lead with initiative. We support new ideas from our colleagues and are focused on innovation. Moreover, we actively manage your professional development, training and career progression. For the location in Darmstadt Germany we are looking for an Ground Station Integration System Engineer to work at ESOC. Tasks Support Station and NDIU integration, validation, testing. Integration, test, val...

Network Operations Engineer
A vacancy for a Network Operations Engineer has arisen within Airbus Defence Space in Stevenage. The role provides an excellent opportunity for an individual, through on the job training, to develop their skills and knowledge in Network Operations Engineering. As a Network Operations Engineer you will be expected to provide technical knowledge and support on configuration, scheduling and network monitoring of the Welfare and Airbus Defence Space RF, Voice and IP Baseband Infrastructure. Ensuring endtoend Services connectivity is scheduled, delivered, maintained and managed in accordance with SLAs. Additionally there is a requirement to provide out of hours oncall cover over a 247365 as part of an oncall team. The successful candidate will be subject to UK National Security Clearance in order to undertake related work in accordance with business needs. Your main tasks and responsibilities will include Contribute to the liaison activity between Operations Team and other site service ag...

Optical AIV Engineer
Optical AIV Engineer Job Ref 760 Reports To Engineering Manager Optical Payload Group Role Summary The Optical Payload Group seeks an enthusiastic and committed Engineer to support in the delivery of a variety of Optical Payloads. This opportunity would allow an engineer to be involved in all aspects of the Assembly, Integration and Verification making use of high performance equipment such as Interferometers, CMMs, as well as bespoke test and alignment equipment. Working with dedicated Optical AIV engineers to deliver current and future Imaging products supported by the engineers involved in the design. The Products SSTL has developed a range of Earth Observation payloads which are currently flying on existing missions. These include both reflective and refractive optical systems that cover a range of applications such as Agriculture, Forestry, Risk Management, Disaster Monitoring, Maritime, Defence and Security. Recently launched missions have included DMC3 was a 3 satellite constel...

Project Manager
Project Manager Job Ref 764 Key Purpose Of Job To manage the delivery of major mission projects to the customer within the required financial and programmatic constraints. Key Tasks Project Management Daytoday management of the project core team activities to ensure the entire project is progressing in line with the baseline plan. Communication with SSTL customers and internal stakeholders, including Heads of Business, Head of Projects, Engineering Team Leaders and Department Managers, Project Accounting and Commercial teams. Management of the major project reviews, identifying clear objectives, inputs, outputs and success criteria. Management of the project key risks to ensure that risks are identified, captured and mitigation actions in place. Monitoring and control of the project finances contingency, cost to complete, profit take to ensure the project is delivered within the agreed budget. Monitoring and control of all project work packages to ensure they are delivered on time and...

Senior Data Scientist to Support NASA HQ - The Aerospace Corporation (United States)
contribution makes a difference. This is a highly visible, client facing role for NASA HQ where the selected candidate will have the opportunity to work on multiple

Senior Network Design Engineer
A vacancy for a Senior Network Engineer has arisen within Airbus Defence Space in Hampshire. This role is to provide architecture and design skills into bid and project teams proposing and delivering solutions based primarily on COTS applications in Service based solutions, and to own the architecture and design activities as technical design authority for their given specialism. The role is responsible for championing the professional approach to engineering practices within the allocated project, across all engineering functions and across the lifecycle of such projects. To act as a leading technical contact for design activities in a particular area of expertise. The successful candidate will be subject to UK National Security Clearance in order to undertake related work in accordance with business needs. Your main tasks and responsibilities will include Act as a Senior SME for Secure Network Communications Devise, create and fully describe the logical and capability based system...

Subject Matter Expert - NASA (Atemp) - Vectrus (United States)
SUMMARY: Vectrus needs a senior subject matter expert (SME) to support the NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Institutional Services Contract (ISC) and other

Through Life Support TLS Engineer

A vacancy for a Through Life Support TLS Engineer has arisen within Airbus Defence Space, the role can be based in Portsmouth or Stevenage. The TLS Engineer will be responsible for the practical application of the Integrated Logistic Support ILS philosophy in accordance with the Defence Standard 0060 00600, offering support to the through life cycle of a service to disposal. The successful candidate will be subject to UK National Security Clearance in order to undertake related work in accordance with business needs. Your main tasks and responsibilities will include I Technical Tasks Make recommendations to offer a robust through life support solution to both the customer and the business. To influence system design using effective Logistical Support Analysis LSA tool sets. Help develop a through life programme strategy utilising faultrepair trend analysis. Carry out through life LSA tasks, for instance Level of Repair Analysis LORA, Life Cycle Costing LCC, Maintenance Task Analysis M...

UK IM Security Project Officer Digitalisation

Are you creative and innovative? Are you customer and solutionoriented? Are you prepared to support new ways of working within IM Security? It is an exciting time to join the IM Security Team as part of the Information Management IM Team. IM is the Information Technology IT business enabler and unique IM Business Partner for Airbus Defence and Space. As a central function, IM is involved in all business processes and enables technical as well as management careers. IM covers a wide range of stateoftheart technologies and positions ranging from IT infrastructure, application support to governance or strategic consultancy. IM offers best conditions for a successful career in an advanced and forwardlooking environment. Working in IM means living global trends developments such as digitalization, innovation and a new way of working. Are you passionate for digital topics and interested in working in a diverse and international environment? Then join us as a Digitalisation Expert with IM Se...

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