Astronautical News

3 February 2017

Blue Marble Two 2012, taken by a hi-tech instrument aboard NASA's Earth-observing satellite - Suomi NPP.

First-ever GPS data release to boost space-weather science

Tiny spacecraft could brake at exoplanet using alien starlight

Spaceflight changes the shape of astronauts' brains

Fate of Japanese space junk collector unknown

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Space, Ukrainian-style: through crisis to revival

148 successful launches, 300 space vehicles placed in orbit and a number of high-profile international projects - this is just a partial list of Ukraine's investments in global space exploration. Ukraine is one of 10 countries with full-cycle rocket production capabilities, and in the years before the crisis of 2014 its aerospace companies earned over $600 million for the government annually. Jointly with the European and Italian space agencies the Yuzhnoye design office is working on the RD-843 main propulsion systems for the fourth stage of the Vega carrier-rocket. And in 2016, a new 5-year collaboration plan was signed with China, in which Ukraine's share in joint projects increased by 40% compared to the previous year. Negotiations are underway with Poland and Lithuania as well. These countries do not yet have a serious aerospace background, but in conjunction with Ukraine they aim to make substantial progress in this area. Next up is cooperation with South Korea, India, China and Spain. The industry's proactive stance has already produced results, with production and product sales up 47% and 40%, respectively, in the first half of 2016, compared to the same period of 2015 (data from the State Space Agency of Ukraine). The Ukrainian aerospace sector's immediate plans include a reorientation towards the European markets and membership of the European Space Agency.

More...

African villagers use satellite data to help save wild chimpanzees Given that chimpanzees are a keystone species and the closest extant relative to humans, their rapid decline in the wild has sparked widespread concern. In response, NASA and the Jane Goodall Institute partnered on a project that aims to use space-down views of chimpanzee habitats to guide local activists involved in conservation.

UK spaceport developments at Cambeltown UK Space science and technology firms QinetiQ and Telespazio VEGA UK have agreed Memorandum's of Understanding (MoU) to work with Discover Space UK on investigating the potential for a horizontal launch spaceport at the Campbeltown site on the West Coast of Scotland.

Fate of Japanese space junk collector unknown An experimental space junk collector designed to pull rubbish from the Earth's orbit has run into trouble, scientists at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said.

Tiny satellites to make big contributions to science CubeSats were designed as educational tools and technological proofs-of-concept, demonstrating their ability to fly and perform needed operations in the harsh space environment. As the capabilities of these nanosatellites increase and their possible contributions grow, they've earned their own place in space.

New interactive chart shows just how many satellites are orbiting Earth David Yanofsky and Tim Fernholz of Quartz collected data from the Union of Concerned Scientists and made an interactive chart that shows active satellites. The Union of Concerned Scientists compiles all their data of satellite locations into a database that the team pulls from for their chart. According to this chart, more than 1,300 are currently orbiting Earth. Besides showing the locations, this chart also shows the weight, position, and national origin of all of them.

Galactic X-rays could point way to dark matter A small but distinctive signal in X-rays from the Milky Way could be key to proving the existence of dark matter. That is the claim of US scientists who analysed the energy spectrum of X-rays gathered by NASA's Chandra satellite. They found more X-ray photons with a particular energy than would be expected if they were produced only by familiar processes. Those photons could in fact have been generated by the decay of dark matter particles, say the researchers.

Good Vibrations! NASA launch simulation tests megarocket experience A first in preparations for a manned mission to Mars, several key pieces of the Orion spacecraft project were combined to test how launch vibrations could influence astronauts' function.

Be a space archaeologist! Explore sites with online platform A new online tool will allow you use images taken from space to explore ancient archaeological sites and discover their hidden secrets.

Spacecraft sees water at Rosetta's comet while stranded in solar orbit The Japanese PROCYON spacecraft may have gotten stuck in orbit after launch, but it's been able to do some impressive observations of 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko from afar.

China's Moon-sampling mission targeted for November China is working to launch a sample-return mission to the moon before the end of 2017.

Japanese craft leaves Space Station to conduct space-junk experiment A Japanese cargo ship undocked from the International Space Station and will spend the next week doing a science experiment in orbit before burning up in Earth's atmosphere on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 5).

Europe's new geostationary satellite platform for the telecommunications market The Hispasat 36W-1 telecommunications satellite, the first in a new satellite platform called SmallGEO, developed and built in Germany, was launched to space on 28 January 2017 at 02:03 CET (27 January, 22:03 local time).

First-ever GPS data release to boost space-weather science More than 16 years of space-weather data is publicly available for the first time in history. The data comes from space-weather sensors developed by Los Alamos National Laboratory on board the nation's Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites. The newly available data gives researchers a treasure trove of measurements they can use to better understand how space weather works.

Recent Launch Activities

Liftoff for SmallGEO ESA's new small telecom platform, SmallGEO, was launched on its first mission at 01:03 GMT on 28 January from Europe's Spaceport.
(29 January 2017)

Japan launches satellite to modernise military communications Japan on Tuesday launched a satellite to modernise its military communications and reportedly to better monitor North Korean missile launches. The Kirameki-2 will enable ground, sea and air units of the military - known as the Self-Defense Forces - to communicate directly with each other, a defence ministry official said.
(26 January 2017)

Atlas V rocket launches US missile-warning satellite A United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 rocket blasted off from Florida to put a missile-detection and early warning satellite into orbit for the U.S. military. The 19-story-tall rocket bolted off its seaside launch pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, kicking off the first of 11 missions on ULA's 2017 calendar.
(21 January 2017)

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)

Development Activities

China looks to Mars, Jupiter exploration China's plans for deep-space exploration included two Mars missions and one Jupiter probe. China plans its first Mars probe by 2020, said Wu Yanhua, vice director of the China National Space Administration. A second Mars probe will bring back samples and conduct research on the planet's structure, composition and environment, Wu said.
(1 February 2017)

China's Moon-sampling mission targeted for November China is working to launch a sample-return mission to the moon before the end of 2017.
(30 January 2017)

China set to launch Moon-sampling mission in November Two years after placing its very first rover on the surface of the moon, China has announced it would launch a mission to return lunar samples to Earth later in 2017. As it develops that mission, China's space agency is also getting ready to launch a different trip to the moon's far side.
(25 January 2017)

eROSITA X-ray telescope travels to Russia for launch in 2018 On 20 January 2017, the completed eROSITA X-ray telescope boarded a cargo plane and was transported from Munich, where it had been built at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, to Moscow. It is expect to arrive at the premises of Lavochkin Association, in the Moscow suburb of Khimki on 25 January.
(24 January 2017)

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)

Launch Failures and Investigations

Fate of Japanese space junk collector unknown An experimental space junk collector designed to pull rubbish from the Earth's orbit has run into trouble, scientists at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said.

ISS Activities

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(29 January 2017)

NASA considering Boeing offer for additional Soyuz seats NASA is proposing to purchase, through Boeing, additional Soyuz seats for International Space Station missions to both take advantage of Russian plans to decrease the size of its crew and as insurance against potential additional commercial crew delays.
(23 January 2017)

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.
(21 January 2017)

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)

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)

African villagers use satellite data to help save wild chimpanzees Given that chimpanzees are a keystone species and the closest extant relative to humans, their rapid decline in the wild has sparked widespread concern. In response, NASA and the Jane Goodall Institute partnered on a project that aims to use space-down views of chimpanzee habitats to guide local activists involved in conservation.
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(29 January 2017)

NOAA's GOES-16 satellite sends first images to Earth GOES-16, the first spacecraft in NOAA's next-generation of geostationary satellites, has sent the first high-resolution images from its Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI) instrument. Included among them are a composite color full-disk visible image of the Western Hemisphere captured on January 15, 2017.
(25 January 2017)

NASA's Earth Observatory reveals Cambodia's incredibly shrinking forests Scientists from the University of Maryland and the World Resources Institute's Global Forest Watch have been using Landsat satellite data to track the rate of forest loss on a global scale. Though other countries have lost more acres in recent years, Cambodia stands out for how rapidly its forests are being cleared.
(23 January 2017)

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)

Galactic X-rays could point way to dark matter A small but distinctive signal in X-rays from the Milky Way could be key to proving the existence of dark matter. That is the claim of US scientists who analysed the energy spectrum of X-rays gathered by NASA's Chandra satellite. They found more X-ray photons with a particular energy than would be expected if they were produced only by familiar processes. Those photons could in fact have been generated by the decay of dark matter particles, say the researchers.
(2 February 2017)

Fermi sees gamma rays from 'hidden' solar flares An international science team says NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope has observed high-energy light from solar eruptions located on the far side of the sun, which should block direct light from these events.
(1 February 2017)

Close views show Saturn's Rings in unprecedented detail Newly released images showcase the incredible closeness with which NASA's Cassini spacecraft, now in its "Ring-Grazing" orbits phase, is observing Saturn's dazzling rings of icy debris. The views are some of the closest-ever images of the outer parts of the main rings, giving scientists an eagerly awaited opportunity to observe features with names like "straw" and "propellers."
(31 January 2017)

Spacecraft sees water at Rosetta's comet while stranded in solar orbit The Japanese PROCYON spacecraft may have gotten stuck in orbit after launch, but it's been able to do some impressive observations of 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko from afar.
(30 January 2017)

China's hi-res SAR imaging satellite put into use China's first high-resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite has passed all its in- orbit tests and is now operational, according to the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense. The Gaofen-3 satellite, which is accurate to one meter in distance, was launched in August 2016.
(27 January 2017)

Gaia turns its eyes to asteroid hunting Whilst best known for its surveys of the stars and mapping the Milky Way in three dimensions, ESA's Gaia has many more strings to its bow. Among them, its contribution to our understanding of the asteroids that litter the Solar System. Now, for the first time, Gaia is not only providing information crucial to understanding known asteroids, it has also started to look for new ones.
(26 January 2017)

ISRO realigns orbit of Mars mission spacecraft 'Mangalyaan Indian Space Research Organization has successfully realigned the orbit of its Mars Orbiter Mission 'Mangalyaan' so it is not affected by a long-duration eclipse, ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar said.
(23 January 2017)

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)

UK spaceport developments at Cambeltown UK Space science and technology firms QinetiQ and Telespazio VEGA UK have agreed Memorandum's of Understanding (MoU) to work with Discover Space UK on investigating the potential for a horizontal launch spaceport at the Campbeltown site on the West Coast of Scotland.
(29 January 2017)

Russia's Proton rocket grounded by poor quality control Russia's workhorse Proton rocket may be grounded until June or July, dealing another blow to the country's launch infrastructure.
(28 January 2017)

Russia to construct Glonass satellite navigation station in Nicaragua Experts from the Russian Central Research Institute of Machine Building (TsNIIMash) will construct a ground Glonass satellite navigation tracking station in Nicaragua, the TsNIIMash's press service said. "The TsNIIMash's specialists will construct a station for tracking data of the Glonass and other global satellite navigation systems in Nicaragua," the press release reads.
(27 January 2017)

Space: Where we've been, where we're going President Obama shook up space policy when he took office, and President Trump may be about to do the same.
(25 January 2017)

Joint space projects to yield results soon: Iranian official Iran's joint projects with other countries in the space field will yield results in the near future, Head of Iran's National Space Center Manouchehr Manteqi said. Iran has begun international cooperation in space projects, Manteqi said, adding that there was no such cooperation in the past.
(23 January 2017)

US Air Force pursues strategy to defend anti-satellite attacks While several countries are known to be making investments in the development of space weaponry, Chinese activities have engendered a particular concern among Pentagon leaders, analysts and threat assessment professionals.
(22 January 2017)

From school to space: satellite built by Brazilian students launched into orbit A satellite built by students of a Brazilian middle school was launched into space from aboard the International Space Station on January 16. The Tancredo-1 satellite, developed by the students of Tancredo de Almeida Neves Municipal School in the city of Ubatuba, measures only 13 centimeters in diameter and weighs about 700 grams.
(21 January 2017)

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)

Opportunities

NASA History Division Internship - NASA (United States)
As part of NASA ’s Office of Communications, student interns will assist the NASA History Division by writing our social media posts; writing features for our

NASA Miro Center for Applied Atmospheric Research and Education (CAARE) - Urban Sustainability and Climate-UAH - NASA (United States)
Space Science Technology Center (NSSTC) in Huntsville, Alabama working with NASA -affiliated researchers, Drs. Maury Estes, Robert Griffin, and Sue Estes (Earth

NASA Moo-Howard University: Energetic Radiation Environment at Mars and Phobos - NASA (United States)
radiation environment will be assessed using data system resources of the NASA Space Physics Data Facility (SPDF), the Virtual Energetic Particle Observatory (VEPO),

NASA Office of Education: Educator Intern - NASA (United States)
Student will support NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center’s Office of Education programs using NASA STEM content to inspire and engage students and educators.

NASA Office of Education: Robotics Intern - NASA (United States)
Student will support NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center’s Office of Education programs using NASA STEM content to inspire and engage students and educators.

NASA Student Airborne Research Program (Sarp) - NASA (United States)
The NASA Airborne Science Program invites highly motivated advanced undergraduates who will be rising seniors in summer 2017 to apply for participation in the 9th

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,

Development of Advanced Optical Diagnostics for NASA Ground Test Facilities - NASA (United States)
of several non-intrusive, advanced optical measurement techniques for use in NASA wind tunnel facilities in support of several strategic thrusts identified

Development of CERS Using the NASA CADRe - NASA (United States)
develop predictive cost estimating relationships (CERS) using data contained in NASA ’s online cost data repository (CADRE-Cost Analysis Data Requirement) and through

Opportunity Title: NASA Miro Center for Applied Atmospheric Research and Education (CAARE) - Air Quality and Climate Effects on Public Health - USRA - NASA (United States)
This internship opportunity is part of a NASA -funded project entitled "Center for Applied Atmospheric Research and Education (CAARE)" that is led by San Jose State

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