Astronautical News

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In cooperation with
The British Interplanetary Society

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NASA's new budget is big on other worlds but ignores our own

The space agency's marching orders focus on sending humans to Mars by 2033 and looking for life elsewhere in the universe, but omit any mention of studying of our own world. On 7 March, Congress passed the NASA Transition and Authorization Act, giving NASA a budget of $19.5 billion for fiscal year 2017 and some instructions for how to spend it. The budget now awaits the President's approval. The bill requires NASA to start working on a "human exploration roadmap", including "goals and objectives of a United States human space exploration program to achieve the long-term goal of human missions near or on the surface of Mars in the 2030s". The bill mentions Mars 70 times, indicating that sending humans there will be a major priority in this administration's vision of NASA. The bill includes only 50 mentions of Earth, almost all of which refer to low-Earth orbit rather than our planet's surface and atmosphere, which NASA is instrumental in studying and monitoring. Notably absent from the bill is any information about NASA's Earth science activities, for which NASA requested just over $2 billion this year.

More...

Commercial space companies flooding US with license requests U.S. government regulators are being overwhelmed by a flood of license requests from entrepreneurial space companies featuring technologies and applications that are new to the commercial world, industry and government officials said.

ILS uncovers Proton second-stage engine component problem ILS has uncovered a problem with a component in a second-stage engine that delayed the launch of the Echostar XXI satellite on the Proton Breeze M rocket in December, company President Kirk Pysher says.

Small satellite market to reach US$7,179 million by 2022 According to a new report published by Allied Market Research, titled, "Small Satellite Market - Global Opportunity Analysis and Industry Forecast, 2014 - 2022," the global small satellite market is expected to reach US$7,179 million by 2022, registering a CAGR of 19.8% from 2016 to 2022.

New small Chinese rocket launches experimental satellite China debuted a new solid-fueled booster in an unannounced flight that put the small satellite Tiankun-1 (TK-1) into polar orbit, adding another rocket to the country's growing fleet of lightweight launchers. The Kaituozhe-2 (KT-2) rocket lifted off from the Jiuquan space centre, a military-run base in northwestern China's Gobi Desert.

NASA seeks payload ideas for mystery satellite NASA is soliciting concepts for payloads that could fly on a mysterious satellite it is in discussions to inherit from another government agency.

Space tourism and business looking up Why are wealthy business people sending their money into space? Some of them dreamed of space travel as children, and now they have the money to chase those dreams. So there is adventure and there is money.

China's first cargo spacecraft to make three rendezvous with Tiangong-2 China's first cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-1 is expected to dock with the orbiting Tiangong-2 space lab three times after its planned launch in April, sources said. Tianzhou-1 will be sent into space from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in south China's Hainan Province aboard a Long March-7 Y2 carrier rocket.

India has capability to develop space station, says top official India has the capability to develop a space station, a top official of the state-owned space agency has said. "We have all the capabilities to set up a space station. The day the country takes the decision, we will okay the project. Just draw a policy and provide us necessary funds and time," Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief A.S. Kiran Kumar told media.

Man-made magnetic shield could make Mars habitable One of the problems standing in the way of Mars habitation has been addressed in an intriguing way by NASA's Planetary Science Division Director Jim Green, who proposed an artificial magnetic shield to protect the Red Planet from high-energy solar particles.

Turkey moves closer to launching own space agency A draft bill for legislation to create a Turkish Space Agency is finalised and readied for review by the Turkish parliament. Finalising this long-envisioned dream will determine the country's space policies and help develop a national space industry.

CubeSats: Shaping Possibilities in Space For more than a decade, CubeSats, or small satellites, have paved the way to low-Earth orbit for commercial companies, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations. These small satellites offer opportunities to conduct scientific investigations and technology demonstrations in space in such a way that is cost-effective, timely and relatively easy to accomplish.

ULA launches NROL-79 payload for NRO A United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket carrying a payload for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) lifted off from Space Launch Complex-3 March 1 at 9:50 a.m. PST. Designated NROL-79, the mission is in support of US national defence.

Recent Launch Activities

Second 'colour vision' satellite for Copernicus launched The ESA-developed Sentinel-2B satellite has been launched, doubling the coverage of high-resolution optical imaging in the Sentinel-2 mission for the European Union Copernicus environmental monitoring system.
(7 March 2017)

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(5 March 2017)

Russia launches Progress MS-05 cargo mission to ISS Russia launched the Progress MS-05 space freighter to the International Space Station from the Baikonur Cosmodrome earlier. It was the final flight of a Souyz-U rocket that has been in use since 1973.
(23 February 2017)

Development Activities

Blue Origin developing 10,000-lb. lunar polar lander A robotic lunar lander capable of delivering as much as 10,000 lb. of cargo to a permanent outpost on the rim of the Moon's polar Shackleton Crater could make its first flight by July 2020, with a little help from NASA. Blue Origin owner Jeff Bezos said that his company has been working on a cargo lander that would support a human base set up in a zone of almost full-time sunlight on the crater's rim.
(4 March 2017)

China hopes to conduct second mission to Mars by 2030 China is likely to conduct its second Mars mission, aimed at collecting soil samples for analysis, by 2030, according to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).
(3 March 2017)

Chinese cargo spacecraft set for liftoff in April In April, China will launch a cargo spacecraft into orbit as part of a schedule to develop an international space station as soon as 2020. A Tianzhou-1 cargo spacecraft could be headed into space "as early as mid-April" atop a Long March-7 Y2 rocket, representing a major milestone for China's space programme.
(27 February 2017)

NASA's audacious Europa missions are getting closer to reality NASA announced progress on a spacecraft that would assess whether Jupiter's Moon Europa is habitable, and earlier this month, an agency-sponsored science team released a report on a separate lander mission that would directly search for signs of life.
(27 February 2017)

BepiColombo: ESA and JAXA join hands to explore Mercury in 2018 The spacecraft will reach Mercury over a span of seven years. It will fly by Earth in 2020 and Venus in 2021.
(25 February 2017)

German-French climate mission enters its implementation phase DLR and Airbus DS signed a contract for the design and construction phases of the German-French climate satellite MERLIN (Methane Remote Sensing LIDAR Mission). From 2021, this small satellite mission will measure the methane concentration in Earth's atmosphere to an unprecedented level of accuracy and thus contribute to research into the causes of climate change.
(18 February 2017)

Mars landing sites for 2020 NASA mission down to the final three At a meeting in California, NASA scientists whittled down the landing sites for its next rover which will search for signs of life
(15 February 2017)

NASA wants to put a lander on Europa's surface to look for life If it goes ahead, the proposed lander mission would be NASA's first search for life on the surface of another planet since the Mars Viking missions in the late seventies.
(12 February 2017)

Launch Failures and Investigations

ILS uncovers Proton second-stage engine component problem ILS has uncovered a problem with a component in a second-stage engine that delayed the launch of the Echostar XXI satellite on the Proton Breeze M rocket in December, company President Kirk Pysher says.

ISS Activities

NASA developing contingency plan for commercial crew delays NASA plans to complete by the middle of March a contingency plan for ensuring access to the International Space Station should its two commercial crew partners suffer additional delays.
(25 February 2017)

Progress underway for first commercial airlock on Space Station Deployment of cubesats and other small satellite payloads from the orbiting laboratory by commercial customers and NASA has increased in recent years. To support demand, NASA has accepted a proposal from NanoRacks to develop the first commercially funded airlock on the space station.
(9 February 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).
(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 Tourism

Space tourism and business looking up Why are wealthy business people sending their money into space? Some of them dreamed of space travel as children, and now they have the money to chase those dreams. So there is adventure and there is money.
(10 March 2017)

NASA studies growing Louisiana deltas The Louisiana coastline is sinking under the Gulf of Mexico at the rate of about one football field of land every hour (about 18 square miles of land lost in a year). But within this sinking region, two river deltas are growing. The Atchafalaya River and its diversion channel, Wax Lake Outlet, are gaining about one football field of new land every 11 and 8 hours, respectively.
(28 February 2017)

Using high-resolution satellites to measure African farm yields Stanford researchers have developed a new way to estimate crop yields from space, using high-res photos snapped by a new wave of compact satellites. The approach, detailed in the February 13 issue of the journal of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, could be used to estimate agricultural productivity and test intervention strategies in poor regions of the world.
(25 February 2017)

Turn satellites into sparkling fireworks to burn up space junk Satellite debris that falls to Earth could be deadly, but pellets made of a heat-generating mixture could help them burn up safely in the atmosphere
(19 February 2017)

100 Earth-shattering remote-sensing applications and uses This list may change the way you feel about how this industry is changing our world and the way we think.
(13 February 2017)

CryoSat reveals lake outbursts beneath Antarctic ice A novel way of using ESA's CryoSat mission has revealed how lakes beneath Thwaites Glacier drained into the Amundsen Sea - potentially the largest such outflow ever reported in this region of West Antarctica.
(11 February 2017)

Keeping space communications reliable for an "always on" world So many of the services we all depend on today are powered by space communications. Without space the world economy, in many ways, turns back half a century in time. For some time now, we have been hearing from the Pentagon that space is no longer the sanctuary it once was.
(7 February 2017)

Sea ice cover in 2016 is lowest ever recorded Latest data from ISRO's weather monitoring satellite SCATSAT-1 has revealed changes in the sea ice cover over the Arctic and the Antarctic. According to ISRO, the changes in the Arctic summer minimum sea ice cover were observed using SCATSAT-1 data collected on October 02, 2016, and compared it with OSCAT data collected on October 02, 2011. It was observed that sea ice cover during 2016 is lower than that observed in 2011, which was earlier lowest sea ice record.
(6 February 2017)

Satellites counting whales from space revolutionising monitoring techniques for researchers A research team in Perth is becoming familiar with what whales look like from space. They have commissioned two satellite images to be taken from 600 kilometres above Earth in order to do an accurate headcount of humpbacks migrating up the WA coast.
(5 February 2017)

Time to make sure Europe's troubled satnav system really flies Europe's costly Galileo satnav network has been branded a vanity project. In an isolationist world, it now seems a wise insurance policy, says Paul Marks
(4 February 2017)

ISRO to launch backup satellite to replace IRNSS-1A India will launch one of its back up navigation satellites this year as a replacement to IRNSS-1A satellite, whose three atomic clocks have failed, ISRO said. The agency denied the existence of similar problems with the rubidium atomic clocks in another navigation satellite.
(4 February 2017)

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.
(31 January 2017)

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.
(30 January 2017)

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).
(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)

China's first cargo spacecraft to make three rendezvous with Tiangong-2 China's first cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-1 is expected to dock with the orbiting Tiangong-2 space lab three times after its planned launch in April, sources said. Tianzhou-1 will be sent into space from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in south China's Hainan Province aboard a Long March-7 Y2 carrier rocket.
(9 March 2017)

Orbiter steers clear of Mars moon Phobos NASA's MAVEN spacecraft performed a previously unscheduled manoeuvre to avoid a collision in the near future with Mars' moon Phobos. The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile EvolutioN (MAVEN) spacecraft has been orbiting Mars for just over two years, studying the Red Planet's upper atmosphere, ionosphere and interactions with the sun and solar wind.
(4 March 2017)

Increasing the sensitivity of next-generation gravitational wave detectors Nearly one year ago the LIGO Collaboration announced the detection of gravitational waves, once again confirming Einstein's theory of General Relativity. This important discovery by the Advanced Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (aLIGO) has spurred great interest in improving these advanced optical detectors.
(27 February 2017)

Kepler's 'second life' - DLR researchers find six planets In 2009, NASA's Kepler space probe was launched, embarking on a mission to hunt for exoplanets. In 2013, due to the failure of two of its reaction wheels, the mission had to be modified. Mission control managed to change the operational modus and manoeuvre the telescope orbiter into a different position in its orbit around the Sun that enabled the mission to continue.
(24 February 2017)

Wonderful potentially habitable worlds around TRAPPIST-1 Scientists have found seven, Earth-size planets orbiting a star just 40 light years away. Three lie in the habitable zone and could have water on their surfaces.
(23 February 2017)

NASA's Kepler mission could detect exomoons formed by giant impacts The hunt is on for moons orbiting distant exoplanets - but only the most massive "exomoons" may be detectable.
(21 February 2017)

Juno Jupiter probe won't move into shorter orbit NASA's Juno spacecraft won't move into a closer orbit around Jupiter as originally planned, agency officials announced.
(20 February 2017)

Big data for the universe Astronomers at Lomonosov Moscow State University in cooperation with their French colleagues and with the help of citizen scientists have released "The Reference Catalog of galaxy SEDs" (RCSED), which contains value-added information about 800,000 galaxies.
(13 February 2017)

Who will get first dibs on the powerful James Webb Space Telescope? NASA has issued solicitation for science projects using the long-awaited and incredibly powerful successor to Hubble, which is scheduled to launch next year.
(10 February 2017)

Angling up for Mars science ESA's latest Mars orbiter has moved itself into a new path on its way to achieving the final orbit for probing the Red Planet.
(9 February 2017)

Gravitational wave detector prepares to peer into bizarre stars It has already made the discovery of the decade ?? next LIGO aims to model weird events so we can recognise them when they arrive
(8 February 2017)

WorldView-4, DigitalGlobe's newest satellite, enters service DigitalGlobe's WorldView-4 high-resolution-imaging satellite entered service this week, following nearly three months of in-orbit testing and calibration.
(7 February 2017)

NASA spacecraft to hunt for Earth's asteroid 'ghosts' NASA's asteroid-sampling Osiris-Rex mission will search for possible Trojan asteroids that could be travelling along with Earth around the sun.
(5 February 2017)

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)

India has capability to develop space station, says top official India has the capability to develop a space station, a top official of the state-owned space agency has said. "We have all the capabilities to set up a space station. The day the country takes the decision, we will okay the project. Just draw a policy and provide us necessary funds and time," Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief A.S. Kiran Kumar told media.
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Turkey moves closer to launching own space agency A draft bill for legislation to create a Turkish Space Agency is finalised and readied for review by the Turkish parliament. Finalising this long-envisioned dream will determine the country's space policies and help develop a national space industry.
(6 March 2017)

India's Moon mission on 2018 target, says ISRO chief ISRO boss AS Kiran Kumar says the second lunar mission Chandrayaan 2 is making good progress; it is scheduled for launch next year. But critics question why should India get into the manned spaceflight race when the US and Russia have scaled back.
(4 March 2017)

Space Wars: U.S. Air Force defends its turf As the nation's space mission grows, does the service have enough clout to manage it all?
(2 March 2017)

Italy, Russia working closely on Mars exploration, Earth monitoring satellites There are neither sanctions nor politics in space and cooperation there between Russia, the US and Europe is absolutely vital. In an interview with Sputnik, the head of the Italian Space Agency (ASI), Roberto Battiston, spoke about the joint projects being implemented by ASI and Russia's Roscosmos space agency.
(23 February 2017)

Mystery surrounds return of Pentagon's secretive X-37B spaceplane After nearly two years in space, one of the US Air Force's biggest mysteries may be returning to Earth.
(22 February 2017)

India takes Russian help to analyze chemical composition of lunar surface ISRO has started a series of ground tests for testing the performance of sensors and actuators for soft landing of the Lander on the lunar surface. India Space Research Organization (ISRO) has selected Russian company JSC Isotope for supply of Radionuclide curium-244 (Cm-244) that enables sources to determine chemical composition of any rocks and soils.
(21 February 2017)

Could Glasgow Prestwick airport host UK's first spaceport? Detailed plans to create the UK's first spaceports are set to be unveiled.
(20 February 2017)

Small satellite rocket booster arrives at New Zealand's first launch site Rocket Lab is one among dozens of companies around the world building rockets to handle an expected boom in demand for small satellite launches.
(18 February 2017)

SatRevolution to launch Poland's first satellite plant Polish company SatRevolution S.A. has unveiled plans to set up the country's first satellite production facility that is to make small spacecraft in cooperation with foreign space industry players.
(17 February 2017)

Indonesia sees long but possible path to developing own satellites Indonesia is taking steps to reduce its dependence on foreign telecommunications satellites through technology-transfer arrangements and micro-satellite development.
(14 February 2017)

UK may lose access to EU Galileo GPS system after Brexit The United Kingdom may be cut off the new EU global positioning system (GPS) Galileo, which has been developed with active participation of British companies, and will have to hold separate negotiations to obtain access to the system after London leaves the European Union, media reported.
(14 February 2017)

North Korea plans to continue satellite launches despite UN objections North Korea intends to continue launching satellites, despite UN Security Council sanctions and resolutions. According to the newspaper Rodong Sinmun, the country will continue to launch satellites when and where its leadership determines.
(11 February 2017)

Minister inaugurating Greek space agency The agency will be a public limited company called National Centre for Space Applications (EKDE in Greek), aimed at "making up for the country's huge deficit in this area," the ministry said. "The launch of the Hellas Sat satellite this year will create important commercial opportunities, which will be developed by a space policy agency along European lines," the announcement said.
(8 February 2017)

UAE aims to launch its first ever Mars mission in 2020 The United Arab Emirates has set an ambitious goal of sending nation's first mission to Mars in 2020, launching its unmanned orbiter from Japan's space centre.
(7 February 2017)

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)

Opportunities

NASA Ames Outreach Education Intern - NASA (United States)
The Office of Education and Public Outreach (OEPO) at NASA Ames serves as the main organization that executes the centers' outreach efforts. Some of the main

NASA Ames SPHERES/Astrobee Facility - NASA (United States)
NASA Ames SPHERES/Astrobee Facility Brief description of duties: The successful applicant would be involved with software development and general support of the

NASA LaRC Autonomy Incubator - NASA (United States)
This is a multidisciplinary team consisting of engineering from a variety of disciplines including aeronautic, electrical, computer, and mechanical. Other disciplines

NASA LaRC: Crew Systems and Aviation Operations - NASA (United States)
NASA is conducting research in the areas of intelligent flight systems, autonomous systems, aviation operations, flight deck systems, and crew

NASA LaRC: Flight Deck Technologies - NASA (United States)
NASA is conducting research into Increasingly Autonomous Systems (IAS) for the flight deck. This work involves computer programming, machine learning, and human in

NASA Senior Computer Scientist Job - SAIC (United States)
NASA Senior Computer Scientist (Job Number:425215) *Description:* SAIC currently has an opportunity available for a Senior Computer Scientist to join our team

Competence Area Manager for Computer and Storage Systems
Are you an IT professional who is inspired by the idea of joining a dynamic and multicultural team based within an international organisation? If the answer is yes then Europes Meteorological Satellite Agency EUMETSAT would love you to find out more about their attractive new offer. As Competence Area Manager for Computer and Storage Systems, you shall be responsible for the engineering and maintenance of all ground segment computer systems supporting the EUMETSAT missions and Copernicus activities. This is an interesting role, offering variety and personal progression. Activities will be focused on provision of services to internal users in accordance with ITIL best practices. Good communication and interpersonal skills are a must as this is an interfacing role. Along with a university degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline, you shall ideally have skillsexperience in each of the following areas Minimum of five years experience in maintaining largescale software systems in an ...

Facilities Management Process Improvement - NASA Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Program Support Office (PSO) - NASA (United States)
Activities for which internship efforts within the NASA Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Program Support Office (PSO) consist of basic facilities

LEO Spacecraft Operations Engineer
HE Space is a successful international space company. For over 30 years, we have been supporting our customers with qualified experts in the field of engineering, science and administration. We are currently looking for a LEO Spacecraft Operations Engineer to support our customer in Germany. LEO Spacecraft Operations Engineer Key Tasks and Responsibilities As part of the Metop Spacecraft Operations Team, you will have the following responsibilities Provision of consultancy to the routine operations of the existing operational satellites Metop AB Provision of operational expertise to platform subsystems andor payload instruments andor onboard software management, satellite simulator and ground segment operations interfaces Maintain the corresponding operations documentation and flight procedures Perform trending and performance analysis on the corresponding subsystems and instruments Investigations into satellite anomalies Support the coordination of partner agency interactions for rel...

Optical AIT Lead Engineer
HE Space is a successful international space company. For over 30 years, we have been supporting our customers with qualified experts in the field of engineering, science and administration. We are currently looking for an Optical AIT Lead Engineer to support our customer in Germany. Optical AIT Lead Engineer Key Tasks and Responsibilities As part of the MTG IRS project team, you will have, among others, the following responsibilities Coordination of Optical AIT Team for the preparation and implementation of Integration, Alignment and Testing of the Optical elements of the IRS models Coordinate and guide a team of young engineers outside and inside the CR, to establish an efficient AIT process with the existing flight hardware and GSE based on the existing alignment and test concepts Be a mentor and coach to the team Creation of necessary

planning, including resource management for both people and HW Responsible for IRS OGSE Technical activities Optical Ground Segment Equipment, throu...

Product Assurance and Safety PAS Engineer
Vacancy in the Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality The European Space Agency is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from women POST Product Assurance and Safety PAS Engineer in the Quality Assurance QA and Management Section, Quality, Dependability and PA Support Division, Product Assurance and Safety Department, Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality. This post is classified in the A2A4 grade band of the Coordinated Organisations salary scale. LOCATION ESTEC, Noordwijk Netherlands. DUTIES The QA and Management Section provides expert support to ESA projects, Establishments and customers in the fields of PA and QA and performs an independent assurance function. Reporting to the Head of Section, the main tasks and responsibilities of the postholder will include preparing specific technical and programmatic requirements for projects within the framework of the ESA PA baseline, monitoring supplier performance evaluating suppliers proposals...

Radiation Effects Engineer
Vacancy in the Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality The European Space Agency is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from women POST Radiation Effects Engineer in the Radiation Hardness Assurance and Component Analysis Section, Components and Materials Physics and Chemistry Evaluation and Standardisation Division, Product Assurance and Safety Department, Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality. This post is classified in the A2A4 grade band on the Coordinated Organisations salary scale. This position forms part of ESAs Advance Recruitment Scheme which is established to provide appropriate staffing resources when requirements materialise. Appointments are therefore made for an initial duration of two years, after which the selected candidate may be appointed to a permanent post at the Agency. LOCATION ESTEC, Noordwijk Netherlands. DUTIES The Radiation Hardness Assurance and Component Analysis Section provides functional support to ESA proj...

Regional Sales Manager Africa
Role Purpose Develop the Earth Observation EO business in the region interact with potential users to understand and interpret their needs and requirements prepare and deliver sales proposals and quotations manage and develop key sales accounts, resellers and partners. Key Accountabilities and Responsibilities the Regional Sales Manager, Africa is expected to Drive sales revenue, identifying, cultivating, winning and growing business in Earth Observation, satellite technologies and related application domains throughout the specified region. Become an expert in the products and services of the company. Analyze the market in the region actors, competitors, requirements, trends, potential, etc.. Identify potential customers and their needs, in order to expand the customer base in the region Actively develop sales opportunities by researching and identifying potential accounts. Interact with customers to understand their needs and translate these into proposals. Prepare and deliver sales...

Security Police Officer, NASA -Ci - Chenega Corporation (United States)
CHENEGA INFINITY, LLC. **Company Job Title:** Security Police Officer (SPO), NASA **Chenega Job Title:** Police Officer I **Clearance:** Secret **Location:**

Senior software engineer for Space Situational Awareness
WHO ARE WE? GMV INSYEN is a privately owned technological enterprise group with an international presence employing more than 1.200 staff. Founded in 1984, GMV INSYEN mainly operates in eight large sectors for both public and private organizations Aeronautics, Space, Defense, Health, Security, Transportation, Telecommunications and Information Technologies. GMV INSYEN currently runs 8 work centers in Spain and offices in France, Germany, India, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, USA, Colombia and United Kingdom. We recruit and hire excellent engineers, and encourage innovation, technical excellence and continuing education. Our engineers regularly present papers at technical conferences, continue their education more than 85 have a masters degree, and we reinvest more than 12 of budget in IRD projects. This striving for excellence, innovation and flexibility is a major part of our culture. We provide very competitive compensation, attractive benefits, and a great work environment wi...

Senior/Senior Advanced Quality Engineer (NASA) - KBRwyle (United States)
Title: Senior/Senior Advanced Quality Engineer (NASA) Location: US-US-MD-GREENBELT Job Number: 1049577 There are no relocation funds, however we are offering a

Space Environment and Effects Engineer
Vacancy in the Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality The European Space Agency is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from women POST Space Environment and Effects Engineer in the Space Environments and Effects Section, Power Systems, EMC Space Environments Division, Electrical Department, Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality. This post is classified in the A2A4 grade band on the Coordinated Organisations salary scale. LOCATION ESTEC, Noordwijk Netherlands. DUTIES The Space Environments and Effects Section supports the development of ESA missions and programmes by investigating the space environments within which they will operate, assessing likely effects and defining mitigation methods. Environments addressed include highenergy radiation from radiation belts, solarparticle events and cosmic rays plasmas encountered in planetary magnetospheres, the solar wind and artificiallygenerated charges and fields on spacecraft micrometeoroids an...

Spacecraft JasonCS Operations Engineer
Serco is a specialist at delivering vital services on behalf of European, National and Local Governments. Serco Europe employs a large workforce in Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Spain, Italy and the UK. Our European operations have ca. 2,000 employees delivering critical services to public institutions throughout Europe. Package description Full details on application. Relocation assistance provided if applicable. Main responsibilities The candidate should provide support to the Operations and Services to Users Department and the LEO Spacecraft Operations Team, focussing on the operations preparation and transition to operations of JasonCSSentinel6 satellites, but including

some crossinteractions with other LEO missions where appropriate. The candidate should encompass responsibility for preparations and operations of specific inorbit subsystems andor instruments. Furthermore, this may also include consultancy to the onboard software management, simulator...

Technical SME NASA KSC - Vectrus (United States)
win (pWin). **MAJOR JOBACTIVITIES:** 1. Defines history of IDIQ work at NASA KSC on ISC. 2. Prepares summary reports on engineering processes/procedures

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