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Astronautical News

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In cooperation with
The British Interplanetary Society

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Space economics - industry trends and space investing New business models and capital sources are changing space economics.

BepiColombo: Joint Mercury mission ready for 'pizza oven' The two satellites that make up the BepiColombo mission to Mercury were presented to the media. This joint European-Japanese venture should finally get to the launch pad in 2018. The two spacecraft will travel together to the baking world but separate on arrival to conduct their own studies. Europe's Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and Japan's Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO) will shortly be unbolted from each other for some final individual testing, prior to shipment to the launch site in French Guiana.

Unexpected large methanol find near Enceladus Researchers suggest that surprisingly large volumes of methanol found near Enceladus are a result of the compound undertaking a complex chemical journey once vented into space

The existence of orbiting supermassive black holes finally confirmed After a 12 year study, scientists finally confirm the existence of a pair of orbiting super massive black holes around 750 million light-years away

SpaceX rocket finally lifts off after two aborted launch attempts After two aborted attempts and a three-day delay, SpaceX successfully sent a communications satellite soaring toward orbit.

Moon station could use tech from scrapped asteroid mission, NASA says NASA is salvaging technology from a scrapped asteroid mission to help build a space station orbiting the moon.

Launch of Hellas Sat 3 satellite brings Cyprus into the space era The launch of the Hellas Sat 3 satellite, the biggest European telecommunication satellite, promotes Cyprus into the space era and more specifically in space technology, Minister of Transport, Communication and Works Marios Demetriades has told CNA. Demetriades, who attended the launch of the satellite at the European Space Station of Kourou, in the French Guiana, said that the Hellas Sat 3 satellite will bring many benefits for Cyprus.

SSTL closing US factory, centralizing manufacturing back in UK British small satellite manufacturer Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd. (SSTL) is closing down a Denver factory in favor of centralizing spacecraft production back in the United Kingdom.

Chinese media report Long March 5 rocket failed soon after launch The launch of China's March-5 Y2 rocket has failed as the satellite failed to enter the preset orbit. At 7.5 tones, the spacecraft was the heaviest China has ever launched. According to state-run media, Shijian-18 was to test China's new Dongfanghong-5 (DFH- 5) satellite platform and carry out in-orbit experiments including Q/V band satellite communication, satellite-ground laser communication technologies and an advanced Hull electric propulsion system.

SES transfers capacity from AMC-9 satellite following significant anomaly SES has announced that, following a significant anomaly, the company is in the process of transferring capacity from its AMC-9 satellite. The incident was noted on the morning of Saturday 17 June 2017. SES has taken immediate action in contacting all customers and is working to transfer services to alternative satellite capacity in order to minimise disruption.

Artificial brain helps GAIA catch speeding stars With the help of software that mimics a human brain, ESA's Gaia satellite spotted six stars zipping at high speed from the centre of our galaxy to its outskirts. This could provide key information about some of the most obscure regions of the Milky Way.

Europe's Galileo satnav identifies problems behind failing clocks Investigators have uncovered the problems behind the failure of atomic clocks onboard satellites belonging to the beleaguered Galileo satnav system, the European Commission said. For months, the European Space Agency - which runs the programme - has been investigating the reasons behind failing clocks onboard some of the 18 navigation satellites it has launched for Galileo.

Aerospace policy paper examines Outer Space Treaty The Aerospace Corporation's Center for Space Policy and Strategy has announced the release of an analysis of the Outer Space Treaty, which marks its 50th anniversary this year. The analysis by Dr. James Vedda, senior policy analyst at Aerospace, examines the treaty provisions that may affect space commerce and highlights both possibilities for updating the treaty.

Recent Launch Activities

SpaceX rocket finally lifts off after two aborted launch attempts After two aborted attempts and a three-day delay, SpaceX successfully sent a communications satellite soaring toward orbit.
(6 July 2017)

Ariane 5 rocket tallies 80th straight success with on-target satellite launch Two geostationary communications satellites rode an Ariane 5 rocket into orbit on 28 June from French Guiana, embarking on missions to broadcast television across Europe, the Middle East and Africa, link European air travellers with Wi-Fi, and relay video and data signals across India. The tandem satellite launch marked Arianespace's seventh mission of 2017, deploying a spacecraft shared by the Greek and Cypriot operator Hellas- Sat and London-based Inmarsat and a payload built and owned by the Indian Space Research Organisation.
(30 June 2017)

SpaceX nails second launch in three days SpaceX nailed its second launch in three days on 25 June with liftoff of a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California carrying 10 satellites owned by Iridium Communications.
(26 June 2017)

Russia launches classified military satellites A modified version of Russia's Soyuz rocket launched from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome, a spaceport on the edge of the Russian Arctic, with a military satellite whose mission is shrouded in mystery.
(25 June 2017)

Development Activities

Russian devices for ExoMars mission to be ready late 2017 Two Russian devices to be mounted on the Mars rover of the ExoMars 2020 mission are nearly ready, by the end of 2017 they will be supplied to the European Space Agency, head of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Space Research Institute laboratory Daniil Rodionov told Sputnik.
(4 July 2017)

Rocket failure may delay China's space station and moon missions The second rocket failure in two weeks is likely to cause delays for China's ambitious space programme whilst the causes are under investigation
(4 July 2017)

Chinese media report Long March 5 rocket failed soon after launch The launch of China's March-5 Y2 rocket has failed as the satellite failed to enter the preset orbit. At 7.5 tones, the spacecraft was the heaviest China has ever launched. According to state-run media, Shijian-18 was to test China's new Dongfanghong-5 (DFH- 5) satellite platform and carry out in-orbit experiments including Q/V band satellite communication, satellite-ground laser communication technologies and an advanced Hull electric propulsion system.
(2 July 2017)

LISA Gravitational-Wave Observatory Selected as ESA L3 Mission In a meeting on 20 June 2017 ESA's Science Programme Committee selected the space- based gravitational-wave detector "Laser Interferometer Space Antenna" (LISA) for ESA's third large (L3) mission in the "Cosmic Vision" plan.
(1 July 2017)

Modified Proton-M carrier rocket to be first launched in 2019 The first launch of the new modification of the Proton-M carrier rocket will be conducted in 2019, the press service of Russia's Roscosmos State Space Corporation said. The Proton-M is the largest carrier rocket in Russia's fleet of space launch vehicles. The rocket has lifted dozens of Russian and foreign satellites into orbit since it was first commissioned into service in 2001.
(29 June 2017)

OneWeb inaugurates serial production line European aerospace giant Airbus and its partner, OneWeb, have begun the production of a satellite mega-constellation. The network will comprise at least 600 spacecraft in the first instance, but could eventually encompass more than 2,000. The aim is to deliver broadband links from orbit to every corner of the globe. The assembly line in Toulouse willto begin end-to-end validation, testing, and integration of its first satellites set for launch in just over nine months.
(28 June 2017)

Green light for European space telescope PLATO On 20 June 2017, the European Space Agency (ESA) gave the go-ahead for the further development of the PLATO space telescope. The German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft-und Raumfahrt; DLR) is leading the international consortium responsible for the construction and scientific operation of the space telescope.
(27 June 2017)

ESA okays project to seek alien life Europe has approved the launch of a deep-space observatory to sniff out habitable planets in other star systems, along with any life forms they may host. "The PLATO mission will address fundamental questions such as 'how common are Earth-like planets?' and 'is our solar system unusual or even unique?'," the University of Warwick, whose scientists will take part in the project, said.
(25 June 2017)

ISS Activities

US spy satellite buzzes ISS Vigilent amateur satellite observers keep tabs on a recently launched US spy satellite that is getting a little to close to the ISS for comfort
(13 June 2017)

NanoRacks deploys CubeSats from Cygnus spacecraft NanoRacks said that it successfully deployed four Spire LEMUR-2 CubeSats from Orbital ATK's Cygnus spacecraft at a nearly 500-kilometre orbit.
(12 June 2017)

John Glenn Cygnus departs ISS begins secondary mission Orbital ATK reports that its Cygnus spacecraft successfully unberthed from the International Space Station, beginning the next phase of its mission before it reenters Earth's atmosphere. The "S.S. John Glenn" now conducts three secondary payload missions including the Saffire-III fire experiment, deployment of four CubeSats and an experiment to further study spacecraft conditions upon
(7 June 2017)

Thomas Pesquet returns to Earth ESA astronaut Thomas Pesquet landed on the steppe of Kazakhstan today with Russian commander Oleg Novitsky in their Soyuz MS-03 spacecraft after six months in space. Touchdown was after a four-hour flight from the International Space Station.
(2 June 2017)

Russia thinks microorganisms may be living outside the space station Officials with Russia's space agency, Rosmoscos, say their scientists have identified plankton and other microorganisms among dust samples collected from the outside of the International Space Station. "The micrometeorites and comet dust that settle on the ISS surface may contain biogenic substance of extra-terrestrial origin in its natural form," Roscosmos officials said in a news release.
(29 May 2017)

Space Tourism

Virgin Galactic Aims to Fly Space Tourists in 2018, CEO Says Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic is on track to begin commercial passenger spaceflights before the end of 2018, the company's chief executive said.
(1 May 2017)

Europe's Galileo satnav identifies problems behind failing clocks Investigators have uncovered the problems behind the failure of atomic clocks onboard satellites belonging to the beleaguered Galileo satnav system, the European Commission said. For months, the European Space Agency - which runs the programme - has been investigating the reasons behind failing clocks onboard some of the 18 navigation satellites it has launched for Galileo.
(5 July 2017)

Satellite image project that helps spot and stop slavery sites from space A crowdsourcing project at the University of Nottingham, England which aims to - via satellite imagery - identify notorious sites that could be involved in modern slavery globally, has attracted a number of online volunteers.
(4 July 2017)

Space junk colution? Tiny cubesat to test new de-orbiting thruster A tiny satellite that reached orbit will make history when it comes back down to Earth.
(3 July 2017)

Satellite image showcases centuries of desertification in India A new image from the European Space Agency's Copernicus Sentinel-2A satellite showcases the extreme aridity of India's Thar Desert. Geologic and archaeological analysis suggests the region, which encompasses more than 123,000 square miles in India and Pakistan, was once green and lush. Centuries of farms have depleted water resources and taxed the soil, slowly drying out the land.
(24 June 2017)

Global nanosatellite market anticipated to reach $6.35 billion by 2021 According to a new market intelligence report, the global market is expected to reach $6.35 billion by 2021, growing at a CAGR of 37.91% during the forecast period. With the emergence of space technologies, which enable satellites to operate under harsh space environment, it has become easier to carry out cost-effective space missions.
(23 June 2017)

Magnetic space tug could target dead satellites Derelict satellites could in future be grappled and removed from key orbits around Earth with a space tug using magnetic forces.
(21 June 2017)

Quantifying the effects of climate change Last year was the hottest on record, Arctic sea ice is on the decline and sea levels continue to rise. In this context, satellites are providing us with an unbiased view of how our climate is changing and the effects it is having on our planet.
(6 June 2017)

China launches advanced satellite navigation positioning system China has launched a national satellite navigation and positioning system, the largest in the country Li Weisen, deputy director of the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation, said that the system consists of 2700 base stations, a national database centre and 30 provincial level database centres. The system, featuring faster speed, higher accuracy and wider coverage, will be compatible with other satellite navigation systems, such as BeiDou.
(29 May 2017)

Russia aims for 15 remote sensing satellites in orbit by 2020 Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that the remote sensing technologies must be used to boost the Russian defense and security, develop the economy and social sphere, and increase the quality of the state's governance. The number of operating Russian remote sensing satellites orbiting the Earth will reach 15 by 2020, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.
(25 May 2017)

New nano-satellite fleet starts launch in June An Australian-backed company is to launch the first three of a planned fleet of 200 new nano-satellites in the third week of June. Sky and Space Global (SAS) says the satellites will provide affordable communication services to those who are currently underserved across the equatorial belt.
(18 May 2017)

Novel use of satnav saves precious water Water conservation is a growing concern globally, and particularly for farmers in the USA, where decades of irrigating huge fields has depleted vital resources of fresh surface water and groundwater. An ESA spin-off that can help to preserve water supplies while guaranteeing crop irrigation is now undergoing final testing.
(15 May 2017)

Iridium deploys first 10 Next satellites Iridium Communications has integrated the first set of its Next satellites into the existing operational constellation to improve communications for shipping. This followed a rigorous testing and validation process of the 10 satellites in orbit.
(11 May 2017)

New look at satellite data questions scale of China's afforestation success China has invested more resources than any other country in reversing deforestation and planting trees. However, given the large scale of these programmes it has been difficult to quantify their impact on forest cover. A new study shows that much of China's new tree cover consists of sparse, low plantations as opposed to large areas of dense, high tree cover.
(8 May 2017)

Satellites track Antarctic ice loss over decades Over two decades of observations by five radar satellites show the acceleration of ice loss of 30 glaciers in Western Palmer Land in the southwest Antarctic Peninsula.
(3 May 2017)

Space debris problem getting worse, say scientists Scientists sounded the alarm over the problems posed to space missions from orbital junk - the accumulating debris from mankind's six-decade exploration of the cosmos. In less than a quarter of a century, the number of orbiting fragments large enough to destroy a spacecraft has more than doubled, a conference in Germany heard.
(19 April 2017)

ESA helps faster cleaner shipping With around 90% of world trade carried by ships, making sure a vessel follows the fastest route has clear economic benefits. By merging measurements from different satellites, ESA is providing key information on ocean currents, which is not only making shipping more efficient but is also helping to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
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(15 April 2017)

China considering cooperation with Russia on space debris China is contemplating developing cooperation with Russia with respect to space debris, China's National Space Administration Secretary-General Yulong Tian told Sputnik.
(12 April 2017)

China's BeiDou system to expand cooperation to SE Asia China's home-grown BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) will expand its cooperation to Thailand and Sri Lanka, and then to the entire Southeast Asia, in a bid to go global, the system's operator has said.
(1 April 2017)

Decommissioned Earth Science satellite to remain in orbit for decades A NASA Earth science satellite whose mission is ending this week will remain in orbit through the middle of the century, far longer than the limit set by orbital debris mitigation guidelines.
(30 March 2017)

Satellites shed new light on earthquakes Satellite radar scans of last year's earthquake in New Zealand are changing the way we are thinking about earthquake hazards in regions where our planet's tectonic plates meet.
(25 March 2017)

SES transfers capacity from AMC-9 satellite following significant anomaly SES has announced that, following a significant anomaly, the company is in the process of transferring capacity from its AMC-9 satellite. The incident was noted on the morning of Saturday 17 June 2017. SES has taken immediate action in contacting all customers and is working to transfer services to alternative satellite capacity in order to minimise disruption.
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(7 July 2017)

NASA releases Kepler Survey Catalog with hundreds of new planet candidates NASA's Kepler space telescope team has released a mission catalogue of planet candidates that introduces 219 new planet candidates, 10 of which are near-Earth size and orbiting in their star's habitable zone, which is the range of distance from a star where liquid water could pool on the surface of a rocky planet.
(20 June 2017)

The future of the Orion constellation A new video, based on measurements by ESA's Gaia and Hipparcos satellites, shows how our view of the Orion constellation will evolve over the next 450 000 years. Stars are not motionless in the sky: their positions change continuously as they move through our Galaxy, the Milky Way.
(17 June 2017)

A whole new Jupiter: First science results from NASA's Juno mission Early science results from NASA's Juno mission to Jupiter portray the largest planet in our solar system as a complex, gigantic, turbulent world, with Earth-sized polar cyclones, plunging storm systems that travel deep into the heart of the gas giant.
(26 May 2017)

Juno spacecraft has close encounter with Jupiter's cloud tops in sixth flyby Juno skimmed the cloud tops of Jupiter at a range of just 3,500 kilometres during its close approach, NASA officials said The manoeuvre marked the sixth time the Juno probe's orbit has brought it up close with Jupiter.
(21 May 2017)

LIGO could detect gravitational waves' permanent space-time warp When gravitational waves permanently distort space-time, it causes a 'memory signal' which may help LIGO find some of the universe's most exotic objects
(20 May 2017)

Fermi satellite observes billionth gamma ray with LAT instrument On April 12, one of the spacecraft's instruments - the Large Area Telescope (LAT), which was conceived of and assembled at the Department of Energy's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - detected its billionth extraterrestrial gamma ray.
(15 May 2017)

Astrophysicists find that planetary harmonies around TRAPPIST-1 save it from destruction When NASA announced its discovery of the TRAPPIST-1 system back in February it caused quite a stir, and with good reason. Three of its seven Earth-sized planets lay in the star's habitable zone, meaning they may harbour suitable conditions for life. But one of the major puzzles from the original research describing the system was that it seemed to be unstable.
(14 May 2017)

First results from Jupiter probe show huge magnetism and storms Observations from the Juno spacecraft are confounding astronomers with revelations about the weather and magnetism of our solar system's biggest planet
(5 May 2017)

Cassini radio signal from Saturn picked up after dive The Cassini spacecraft is sending data back to Earth after diving in between Saturn's rings and cloudtops. The probe executed the daredevil manoeuvre on Wednesday - the first of 22 plunges planned over the next five months - while out of radio contact.
(27 April 2017)

NASA's Cassini, Voyager missions suggest new picture of Sun's interaction with galaxy New data from NASA's Cassini mission, combined with measurements from the two Voyager spacecraft and NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer, or IBEX, suggests that our sun and planets are surrounded by a giant, rounded system of magnetic field from the sun - calling into question the alternate view of the solar magnetic fields trailing behind the sun in the shape of a long comet tail.
(26 April 2017)

China's first cargo spacecraft docks with space lab China's first cargo spacecraft, Tianzhou-1, successfully completed docking with an orbiting space lab, the Beijing Aerospace Control Center said.
(24 April 2017)

Gaia's snapshot of another galaxy While compiling an unprecedented census of one billion stars in our Galaxy, ESA's Gaia mission is also surveying stars beyond our Milky Way. A new image of M33, also known as the Triangulum galaxy, shows tens of thousands of stars detected by Gaia, including a small stellar census in its star-forming region NGC 604.
(24 April 2017)

Cassini probe heads towards Saturn 'grand finale' Cassini has used a gravitational slingshot around Saturn's moon Titan to put it on a path towards destruction. The flyby swept the probe into an orbit that takes it in between the planet's rings and its atmosphere. This gap-run gives the satellite the chance finally to work out the length of a day on Saturn, and to determine the age of its stunning rings. But the manoeuvre means also that it cannot escape a fiery plunge into Saturn's clouds in September.
(22 April 2017)

NASA and partners survey space weather science NASA scientists worked with scientists and engineers from research institutions and industry during a pair of intensive week-long workshops in order to assess the state of science surrounding this type of space weather.
(22 April 2017)

Saturn moon 'able to support life' Saturn's ice-crusted moon Enceladus may now be the single best place to go to look for life beyond Earth. The assessment comes on the heels of new observations at the 500km-wide world made by the Cassini probe. It has flown through and sampled the waters from a subsurface ocean that is being jetted into space. Cassini's chemistry analysis strongly suggests the Enceladean seafloor has hot fluid vents - places that on Earth are known to teem with life.
(14 April 2017)

New Horizons spacecraft enters hibernation The New Horizons spacecraft has entered hibernation, reported by Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.
(13 April 2017)

Milky Way stars on the move - satellite data used to see into the future The motion of 2 million stars over the course of 5 million years into the future is depicted in this new animation from the European Space Agency. Data from their Gaia Mission was used to create it.
(13 April 2017)

Metal detected in Mars' Atmosphere NASA's MAVEN spacecraft has spotted iron, magnesium and sodium ions ??electrically charged atoms - high up in the Red Planet's atmosphere over the past two years, a new study reports.
(12 April 2017)

Cassini prepares for last plunge NASA's unmanned Cassini spacecraft is preparing for its final plunge into Saturn later this year, after two decades of helping Earth-bound scientists make new discoveries about the sixth planet from the Sun and its mysterious rings.
(8 April 2017)

NASA observations reshape basic plasma wave physics When NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale - or MMS - mission was launched, the scientists knew it would answer questions fundamental to the nature of our universe - and MMS hasn't disappointed. A new finding, presented in a paper in Nature Communications, provides observational proof of a 50-year-old theory and reshapes the basic understanding of a type of wave in space.
(6 April 2017)

Prolific Mars Orbiter Completes 50,000 Orbits The most data-productive spacecraft yet at Mars swept past its 50,000th orbit this week, continuing to compile the most sharp-eyed global coverage ever accomplished by a camera at the Red Planet. In addition, the spacecraft - NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) - recently aided preparations for NASA's next mission to Mars, the InSight lander.
(3 April 2017)

NASA orbiter shows Mars lost 90 per cent of its CO2 to space The MAVEN spacecraft has completed the key part of its mission: to track down how much argon Mars's atmosphere is giving up as a proxy for carbon dioxide loss
(2 April 2017)

ExoMars: Rover scientists to study Mawrth Vallis option Scientists are going to investigate a second site on Mars as a possible destination to send ESA's 2021 rover. Scientists spent two days considering the options and plumped in the end for Mawrth Vallis - an area rich in clay minerals that must have formed during prolonged rock interactions with water. Mawrth joins Oxia Planum, which was selected for study in 2015.
(29 March 2017)

New treasures from Juno: Jupiter dazzles during fourth close approach Image processor Björn Jónsson shares some of his latest stunning images of Jupiter, created using data from NASA's Juno spacecraft.
(28 March 2017)

NASA's SDO sees a stretch of spotless Sun For 15 days starting on March 7, 2017, NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, or SDO, returned visible light images of a yolk-like spotless sun. This is the longest stretch of spotlessness since the last solar minimum in April 2010, indicating the solar cycle is marching on toward the next minimum, which scientists predict will occur between 2019- 2020.
(26 March 2017)

Japan reveals plans to put astronaut on moon by 2030 Japan has revealed ambitious plans to put an astronaut on the Moon around 2030 in new proposals from the country's space agency. This is the first time the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has said it aims to send an astronaut beyond the International Space Station, an agency spokeswoman told AFP.
(3 July 2017)

Launch of Hellas Sat 3 satellite brings Cyprus into the space era The launch of the Hellas Sat 3 satellite, the biggest European telecommunication satellite, promotes Cyprus into the space era and more specifically in space technology, Minister of Transport, Communication and Works Marios Demetriades has told CNA. Demetriades, who attended the launch of the satellite at the European Space Station of Kourou, in the French Guiana, said that the Hellas Sat 3 satellite will bring many benefits for Cyprus.
(2 July 2017)

President Trump Re-Establishes National Space Council U.S. President Donald Trump signed a long-awaited executive order June 30 re- establishing the National Space Council.
(1 July 2017)

India, Portugal shake hands on space cooperation Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Lisbon agreed with Portuguese authorities on creation of alliance to advance space research, the Indian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. India, Portugal sing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of space, according to the statement.
(29 June 2017)

Studies into UK National Microgravity Experiments Call for Proposals The UK Space Agency is making funding available for studies...
(29 June 2017)

Russia, Brazil consider joint space launches from Brazilian spaceport #Russia and #Brazil are considering the possibility of conducting joint launches of carrier rockets from a Brazilian space centre, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.
(27 June 2017)

Vietnam, Israel sign agreement on space technology cooperation The Vietnam National Satellite Centre and the Israel Space Agency inked an agreement on cooperation in science and technology and peaceful use of outer space, in Hano. At the signing ceremony, Israeli Ambassador to Vietnam Meirav Eilon Shahar said under the agreement, the two sides will boost cooperation in such areas as earth observation, space industry, and satellite activities.
(22 June 2017)

NASA, CNES express commitment to joint exploration France and the United States have a long history of cooperation in space, combining their talents over the years to advance science and launch exploration missions whose results have been instrumental in creating entirely new fields of research. The leaders of the two space agencies, Acting NASA Administrator Robert Lightfoot, and CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall, reaffirmed the agencies' cooperation efforts.
(21 June 2017)

Galileo contract faces Brexit crunch A contract signed is giving a German-UK consortium the go-ahead to build another eight satellites for Galileo - Europe's version of GPS. OHB System of Bremen and SSTL of Guildford have so far produced all of the fully operational satellites in the constellation. But it is highly unlikely that SSTL, which assembles the timing and navigation payloads on the spacecraft at its Surrey factory, will have completed its share of the production effort by Friday 29 March, 2019 - the date for Britain's withdrawal from the EU.
(21 June 2017)

Plan aims to secure UK space sector A government plan to secure growth in the UK's £13.7bn space industry is laid out in the Queen's Speech. The stated purpose of the new Bill is to make the UK the most attractive place in Europe for commercial space - including launches from British soil. It would help increase the UK share of the global space economy from 6.5% today to 10% by 2030.
(21 June 2017)

Kazakh man dies in fire following Russian rocket launch A Kazakh man died and another was hospitalised after they were caught in a fire on the steppes triggered by falling debris from a Russian space launch, emergency services said. The blaze, reaching 15 kilometres across, was unleashed by parts of a rocket that fell to Earth after launch from the nearby Baikonur cosmodrome. The rocket had been used to successfully launch a supply ship destined for the International Space Station, emergency services in Kazakhstan said.
(17 June 2017)

Russian aerospace firm to cooperate with China on Lunar exploration missions Russia's Lavochkin Research and Production Association will work with China on designing lunar exploration missions, including orbital and return ones, Sergei Lemeshevsky, the Russian company's director general, told Sputnik.
(13 June 2017)

US House bill seeks to help commercial space companies The House Science Committee is trying to remove barriers to commercial space companies with a new bill, the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017.
(11 June 2017)

Chinese experiment reaches Space Station in historic first A Chinese experiment is now on the International Space Station (ISS), having reached the orbiting lab Monday (June 5) aboard a SpaceX Dragon cargo spacecraft.
(11 June 2017)

Roscosmos says cooperation with NASA unaffected by 'political outbursts' Sergey Krikalev stated that the cooperation between Russia's Roscosmos space corporation and NASA is going normally and successfully. Political "outbursts" have little effect on space agencies, the Executive Director for manned space flight programs told Sputnik.
(9 June 2017)

New law and space agency to support Luxembourg's space resources ambitions The government of Luxembourg expects to soon have in place both a new national space law and a national space agency, two key steps in the small European country's outsized contribution to the development of a space resources industry.
(8 June 2017)

Russia on the way to adopt new programme on development of space centres The federal programme for the development of Russian space launch centres for the period of 2017-2025 may be adopted as early as by September, the head of Roscosmos State Space Corporation Igor Komarov said. Komarov said in May that the programme had been submitted to the government, and it was expected to keep within the budget not exceeding 340 billion rubles (some $6 billion).
(7 June 2017)

NOAA budget request prioritizes current satellite programmes over future ones The fiscal year 2018 budget request for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration offers full funding for ongoing major weather satellite programs while deferring work on future efforts.
(2 June 2017)

Iran to launch sensor-operational satellite in 2018 Iran will launch its first sensor-operational satellite in 2018, a top official of Iran Space Research Centre said on Sunday.
(31 May 2017)

Ireland will be launching its first satellite into space The EIRSAT-1 satellite will be launched from the International Space Station and will orbit the earth for 12 months, gathering data on Gamma Ray Bursts and testing innovative space technologies. Researchers and students from University College Dublin and Queen's University in Belfast are leading the project, which is being developed under the European Space Agency's (ESA) 'Fly Your Satellite! 2017' programme.
(30 May 2017)

Australian satellite in orbit The first Australian satellite in 15 years, UNSW-EC0, was successfully deployed from the International Space Station, but the UNSW engineers who built it were unable to establish contact when it made its first pass above Sydney.
(28 May 2017)

Cruz to hold hearing on updating the Outer Space Treaty The chairman of the US Senate's space subcommittee said May 16 that his committee will hold a hearing to hear testimony on possible updates to a 50-year-old treaty that is the cornerstone of international space law.
(25 May 2017)

Opportunities

NASA AFRC Internship - NASA (United States)
previous work. Students are given an opportunity to interact with NASA researchers, engineers, and technicians in design, construction, implementation, verification

NASA Information Assurance Engineer - KeyLogic (United States)
As a NASA Information Assurance Engineer you will become an integral part of our growing organization. As a member of the KeyLogic Team, you will be able to expand

NASA IV&V Systems Engineer - Engility (United States)
is the sole provider of Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) services to the NASA IV&V Program located in Fairmont, West Virginia. At the NASA IV&V

NASA IV&V Systems Engineer - Engility Corporation (United States)
is the sole provider of Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) services to the NASA IV&V Program located in Fairmont, West Virginia. At the NASA IV&V

NASA Journalism, Multimedia, Social Media Winter/Spring Internships - NASA (United States)
INTRODUCTION: NASA invites students working towards degrees in journalism, communications, media relations, science writing, immersive journalism, or broadcast

NASA Programs Acquisition Manager - Centech (United States)
Overview: THE CENTECH GROUP, Inc. (CENTECH(R)) is seeking a Capture Manager/ NASA Programs Acquisition Manager. The person in this position will manage the

NASA Programs Acquisition Manager - THE CENTECH GROUP (United States)
THE CENTECH GROUP, Inc. (CENTECH(R)) is seeking a Capture Manager/ NASA Programs Acquisition Manager. The person in this position will manage the CENTECH-approved

NASA UAS Traffic Management (UTM) project - NASA (United States)
As part of the NASA UAS Traffic Management (UTM) project, research is in progress to enable integration of small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) into the National

AST, Technical Management - Headquarters, NASA (United States)
The incumbent serves as the Safety and Mission Assurance (SMA) Manager in the NASA Management Office (NMO) at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, CA,

Client Executive, NASA / Department of Energy - VMware (United States)
As the NASA / DoE Client Executive, you will be responsible for driving VMware solutions to NASA and the scientific community. The ideal candidate would

Client Executive, NASA / Department of Energy - VMware, Inc. (United States)
Job ID 80872BR As the NASA / DoE Client Executive, you will be responsible for driving VMware solutions to NASA and the scientific community. The ideal candidate

Data Management Analyst - NASA Open Data Project - Qualified Technical Services, Inc (United States)
Work Location: NASA Ames Research Center (Mountain View, CA) Minimum Citizenship: US Citizen Clearance: US Government JOB DESCRIPTION Interested in improving the

EGNOS GNSS Ground Systems AIV 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 will ensure support to the EGNOS V2V3 Deployment Activities coordination which includes supervision of site activities for V3 RIMS sites, NLES sites, MCC sites, OCC site and for V242 several new RIMS sites integration plus existing RIMS sites upgrades and other EGNOS site upgrades justified by EGNOS equipment HW obsolescence resolution, in order to maintain EGNOS infrastructure and improve the EGNOS service coverage at the current footprint boundary The candidate will cover all phases of the deployment, from s...

EGNOS Deployment Engineer
Closing date 26th July 2017 Our customer ESOC is searching for a key person to support the EGNOS V2V3 Deployment activities. It includes supervision of site activities for V3 RIMS sites, NLES sites, MCC sites, OCC site and for V242 several new RIMS sites integration plus existing RIMS sites upgrades and other EGNOS site upgrades justified by EGNOS equipment HW obsolescence resolution, in order to maintain EGNOS infrastructure and improve the EGNOS service coverage at the current footprint boundary. It covers all phases of the deployment, from site inspection and evaluation to final acceptance of the installation, as per applicable deployment process defined in V2 and V3 programs. Support Service shall be delivered with a Service team representative integrated in EGNOS Project Office site in Toulouse, France, and shall be regularly coordinated with onsite Service Teams at ESOC, Darmstadt PROFILE Mandatory skills University degree in a relevant engineering field, astronomy, mathematics...

EGNOS Deployment Engineer mf
Terma The hightech and innovative Terma Group develops products and systems for defense, nondefense and security applications, including command and control systems, radar systems, selfprotection systems for aircraft and vessels, space technology, and aerostructures for the aircraft industry. Terma is headquartered at Aarhus, Denmark. Internationally, Terma has subsidiaries and operations in The Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, India, Singapore and the U.S. The Space Business Area contributes with missioncustomized software and hardware products including power systems and star trackers as well as services to support a number of inorbit pioneering European scientific and Earth observation satellite missions. Additionally, Terma is contracted for the development and delivery of software and hardware systems and services for numerous ongoing and future European, and international missions. Terma Space operates out of Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany, and the ...

Electrical Compliance Engineer
Vacancy in the Directorate of Internal Services. ESA is an equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving diversity within the workforce and creating an inclusive working environment. Applications from women are encouraged. Post Electrical Compliance Engineer This post is classified A2 A4 on the Coordinated Organisations salary scale. Location ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands Description Electrical Compliance Engineer in the Infrastructure Section, ESTEC Estates Facilities Management Division, Estates Facilities Management Department, Directorate of Internal Services. The European Space Research and Technology Centre in Noordwijk is the European Space Agencys largest site and approximately 2,800 people work there, many of them scientists and engineers. The site covers approx. 40 ha of land and has a wide variety of buildings covering a surface area of 130,000m2. Besides offices, meeting rooms, conference rooms and ancillary facilities, ESTEC hosts numerous technical facilities i...

ERT Officer NASA -Ci (Titusville FL) - Chenega Corporation (United States)
emergency response operations. The ERT Officer, after completion of required NASA Federal Arrest Authority and if required, Federal Magistrate Program Training,

Full Stack Developer - NASA Open Data Project - Qualified Technical Services, Inc (United States)
Work Location: NASA Ames Research Center (Mountain View, CA) Minimum Citizenship: US Citizen Clearance: US Government REQUIREMENTS Education: BS Discipline(s):

Ground Segment Operations Engineer mf Galileo
LSE Space GmbH is looking for an experienced Ground Segment Operations Engineer mf to join at the Galileo Control Center in Oberpfaffenhofen near MunichGermany. The Ground Operations Team is responsible for the overall management of Galileo GCS Operations at both GCCD and GCCI sites and the execution of GCS prime operations and GMS backup operations at GCCD, including activities related to key management. Typical tasks will be Ops preparation Preparesupportexecute system, segment and element operation validation activities. This includes the definition of validation scenarios, plans or test cases and the procedure development and validation, testing, result reporting. Developreviewupdate Operations Plans and Operations Concept documents Ensuresupport databases preparation, coordination, synchronization and verification. Preparation of SCTC and simulation Ops planning and coordination Assist with the planning and coordination of GCS maintenance activities across both sites and GMS back...

Human Resources Specialist (Employee and Labor Relations) - NASA Pathways Recent Graduates - Headquarters, NASA (United States)
Job Overview ## Job Overview Summary About the Agency NASA ’s Recent Graduates program provides an opportunity for individuals to gain experience in Federal civil

Human Resources Specialist (Employee and Labor Relations) - NASA Pathways Recent Graduates - USAJobs (United States)
About the Agency NASA ’s Recent Graduates program provides an opportunity for individuals to gain experience in Federal civil service positions at the beginning of

Science Driven Long Duration Venus Lander Concepts (NASA Space Academy at Glenn) - NASA (United States)
1. Brief background & NASA mission/program support: Venus is a key planet to help better understand Earth and our solar system. Due to the thick acidic cloud layers,

Senior Evaluation Officer
Vacancy in the Director Generals Services. ESA is an equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving diversity within the workforce and creating an inclusive working environment. Applications from women are encouraged. Post Senior Evaluation Officer This post is classified A2 A4 on the Coordinated Organisations salary scale. Location ESA Headquarters, Paris, France Description Senior Evaluation Officer in the Evaluation and Quality Management Office, Internal Audit and Evaluation Service, Director Generals Services Duties The postholder has the following tasks with the overall objective of strengthening the Agencys capabilities for transforming the way ESA delivers its products and services planning and conducting evaluations of the status of ESA activities assessing their achievements against objectives, requirements and resource constraints and recommending measures for optimising the usage of Agency resources developing and enhancing capabilities including methods such as lean...

Senior Full Stack Node.js Developer, NASA Project Open Data - Senior Software Engineer V - SGT Inc (United States)
Senior Full Stack Node.js Developer, NASA Project Open Data Interested in improving the discoverability and accessibility of NASA ’s open source data and code?

Senior/Senior Advanced Quality Engineer (NASA) - KBRwyle (United States)
Title: Senior/Senior Advanced Quality Engineer (NASA)Location: US-US-MD-GREENBELTJob Number: 00336429KBRwyle seeks an experienced Quality Engineer to provide quality

Software Tester
Your Tasks Concept, design and planning of software system tests Preparation of test cases and related test documentation Execution of software system tests Verification of test design and related procedures Preparation and execution of software test procedures Tracing between test cases and test scriptsprocedures Generation of test reports Internal communication with colleagues in other European countries Coordination with costumer Your Qualifications Engineering degree with a major in electrical engineering, computer technology, space technology or comparable qualifications Several years of professional experience as tester of embedded software, ideally in the space industry or aerospace Good knowledge of analysis and design in the context of software testing would be a plus Good knowledge of CC as well as experience in analysing specification and control documents Knowledge of software test tools as IBM Rational Quality Manager as well as DOORS, UMLRhapsodyUML, and the Sscript lLan...

Software Use Agreements & NASA Technology Transfer System (NTTS) Support (Mountain View, CA) - KBRwyle (United States)
STE-CA-MO-17:040: Software Use Agreements & NASA Technology Transfer System (NTTS) Support

Special Response Team Officer NASA Jsc - Chenega Corporation (United States)
Company Job Title: Physical Security Specialist / Special Response Team Officer, NASA JSC **Chenega Job Title:** Police Officer I **Clearance:** Must be able

Vacuum Chamber Operator Test Engineer
Equipment technician for test equipment and conducting tests in the Thermal Vacuum Chamber Immediate Start Activities Initiating, leading and working on projects to develop equipment. Operating, servicing and setting up of Thermal vacuum and associated equipment. Coordinating, introducing and supervising other colleagues. Taking responsibility for the electrical equipment. Prepare, attend and breakdown of tests of space systems and components in thermal vacuum equipment. Independent erection of test equipment. Skills, Experience and Qualifications Qualified as an Electrical engineer or technician, automation technician or in industrial electronics. A number of years experience in a similar position. Experience in the supervision of electrical equipment. Knowledge of vacuum andor cryo areas. Good knowledge in the areas of automation, visualisation and SPS control. Experience in Project managementProject leadership desirable. Team player. Results driven and very aware of quality, with ...

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