

“Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.” Albert Einstein



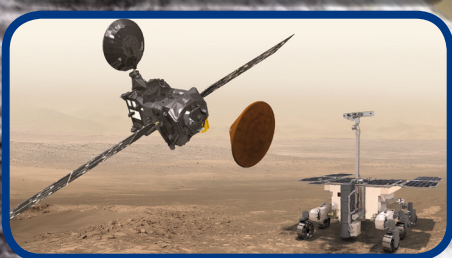
Astro

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CONTENTS

- ExoMars Has Been Postponed to 2022 1
- Huge Asteroid Will Safely Pass Earth in April 1
- SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket Aborts Launch at Last Second 2
- Astrophysicists Wear 3-D Glasses to Watch Quasars 2
- First Science Instruments to Send to Gateway 3
- Hubble Celebrates 30 Years of Science 3



ExoMars Has Been Postponed to 2022

The European Space Agency (ESA) and the Roscosmos Space Corporation have decided to postpone the launch of the second ExoMars mission to study the Red Planet to 2022. The joint ESA-Roscosmos project team evaluated all the activities needed for an authorisation to launch, in order to analyse the risks and schedule. With due consideration of the recommendations provided by European and Russian Inspectors General, ExoMars experts have concluded that tests necessary to make all components of the spacecraft fit for the Mars adventure need more time to complete.

MarsDaily.com

Huge Asteroid Will Safely Pass Earth in April

The huge asteroid known as (52768) 1998 OR2 will pass closest on April 29, 2020. Observers peering through telescopes will see it as a slow-moving “star.”

Have you heard the buzz about a big – very big – asteroid that’ll pass close in April? We have!

No, it won’t hit our planet. In fact, it won’t have any effects on Earth. Still, excitement is building among both professional and amateur astronomers about the upcoming flyby of asteroid (52768) 1998 OR2 – the biggest asteroid due to fly by Earth this year – coming closest on April 29, 2020.

EarthSky.org

SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket Aborts Launch at Last Second



The engines powering a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket's first stage, a well-traveled booster attempting a record fifth flight in a mission to launch 60 Starlink internet satellites, roared to life and then immediately shut down Sunday in a dramatic-but-safe last-second launch abort. The Falcon 9 is equipped with safety features that can trigger an on pad abort like we saw today, and can even abort during flight if it detects an anomaly. SpaceX tweeted later Sunday morning that a "standard auto-abort triggered due to out of family data during engine power check."

[SpaceFlightNow.com](https://www.spaceflightnow.com)

Astrophysicists Wear 3-D Glasses to Watch Quasars

A team of researchers from Russia and Greece reports a way to determine the origins and nature of quasar light by its polarization. The new approach is analogous to the way cinema glasses produce a 3-D image by feeding each eye with the light of a particular polarization, either horizontal or vertical. The authors of the recent study in the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* managed to distinguish between the light coming from different parts of quasars—their disks and jets—by discerning its distinct polarizations.



[Phys.org](https://www.phys.org)

NASA Selects First Science Instruments to Send to Gateway



NASA has selected the first two scientific investigations to fly aboard the Gateway, an orbital outpost which will support Artemis lunar operations while demonstrating the technologies necessary to conduct a historic human mission to Mars. The instruments selected for Gateway will observe space weather and monitor the Sun's radiation environment.

Technology.org

Hubble Celebrates 30 Years of Science

It's hard to believe that nearly half the people alive today have never known a world without the Hubble Space Telescope. The space shuttle Discovery blasted off with its precious cargo from Kennedy Space Center on April 24, 1990, and the next day, the shuttle's five-person crew deployed the school-bus-sized observatory in low Earth orbit. In the 30 years since, Hubble has helped redefine our universe, tackling problems that had plagued astronomers for decades, as well as discovering new mysteries no one imagined.



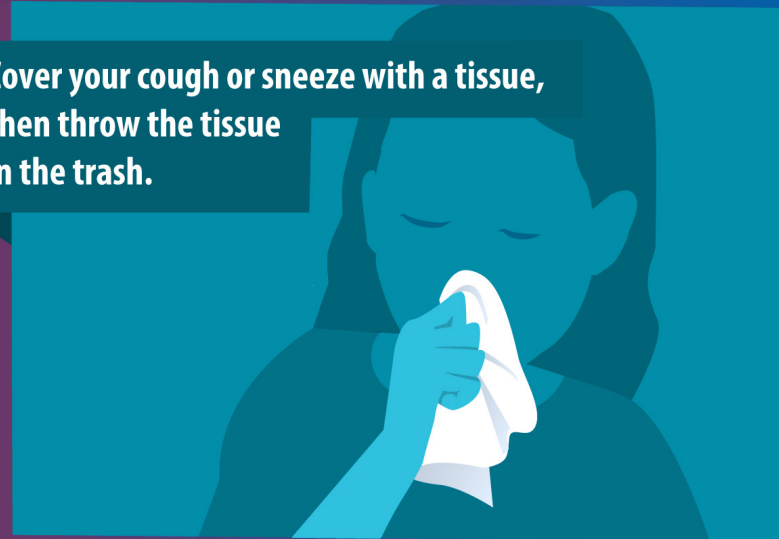
Astronomy.com

How to Protect Ourselves?

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.





Astronomy Picture of the Day

A Moon Dressed Like Saturn

Image Credit & Copyright: Francisco Sojuel

Why does Saturn appear so big? It doesn't -- what is pictured are foreground clouds on Earth crossing in front of the Moon. The Moon shows a slight crescent phase with most of its surface visible by reflected Earthlight known as ashen glow. The Sun directly illuminates the brightly lit lunar crescent from the bottom, which means that the Sun must be below the horizon and so the image was taken before sunrise. This double take-inducing picture was captured on 2019 December 24, two days before the Moon slid in front of the Sun to create a solar eclipse.

apod.nasa.gov



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