

"It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity." Albert Einstein



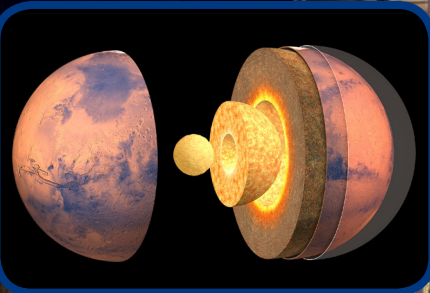
Astro

Volume 13, Issue 8

May 15, 2020

CONTENTS

- What is Mars Made Of? 1
- Less Than Two Weeks From a Historic Crew Launch 1
- NASA's James Webb Space Telescope Fully Stowed 2
- NASA Resumed Green Run Testing Activities 2
- Touching the Asteroid Ryugu 3
- Why is This Galaxy Shaped Like a Boomerang? 3



What is Mars Made Of?

Researchers simulate the core of Mars to investigate its composition and origin. Earth-based experiments on iron-sulfur alloys thought to comprise the core of Mars reveal details about the planet's seismic properties for the first time. This information will be compared to observations made by Martian space probes in the near future.

Whether the results between experiment and observation coincide or not will either confirm existing theories about Mars' composition or call into question the story of its origin.

Technology.org



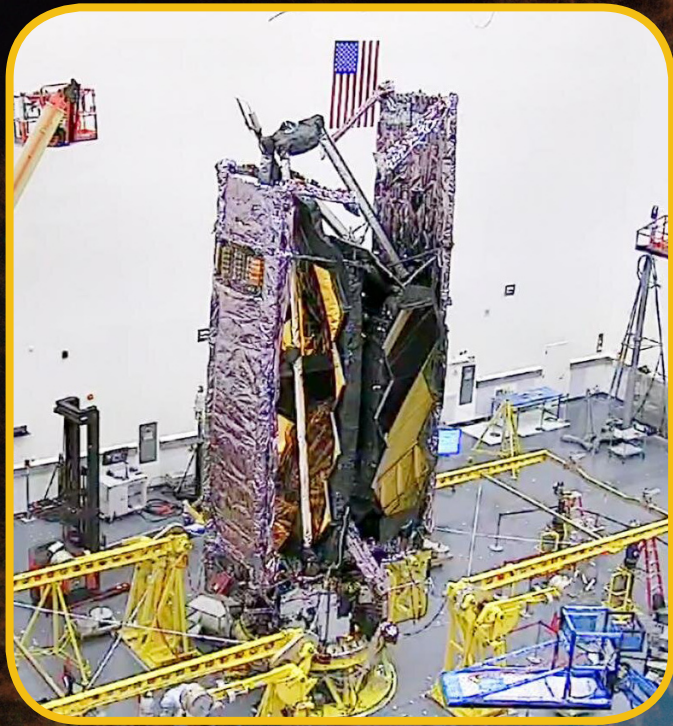
Less Than Two Weeks From a Historic Crew Launch

SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft is less than two weeks from launching NASA astronauts to the International Space Station for the first time, but some big obstacles still stand in the way.

With this SpaceX mission, known as Demo-2, veteran NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley are set to launch on a Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center on May 27. The historic launch will be the first crewed launch from the United States to orbit since NASA's space shuttle program ended in 2011.

Space.com

NASA's James Webb Space Telescope Fully Stowed



NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has been successfully folded and stowed into the same configuration it will have when loaded onto an Ariane 5 rocket for launch next year. Webb is NASA's largest and most complex space science telescope ever built. Too big for any rocket available in its fully expanded form, the entire observatory was designed to fold in on itself to achieve a much smaller configuration. Once in space, the observatory will unfold and stretch itself out in a carefully practiced series of steps before beginning to make groundbreaking observations of the cosmos.

Phys.org

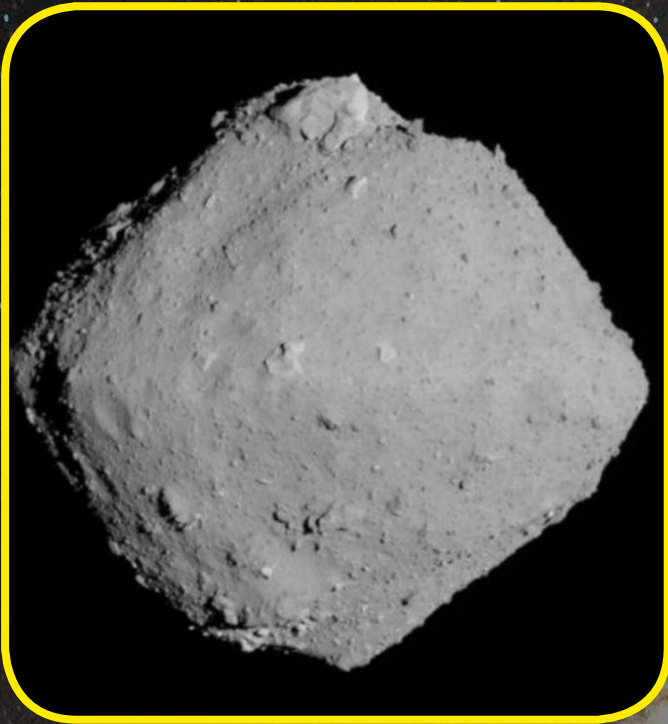
NASA Resumed Green Run Testing Activities

NASA resumed Green Run testing activities this week on the first flight stage of its Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, with the return of limited crews to perform work at the agency's Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Green Run represents the first top-to-bottom integrated test of all flight core stage systems prior to its maiden Artemis I flight. All testing will be conducted on the B-2 Test Stand in the coming months and will culminate with an eight-minute, full-duration hot fire of the core stage with its four RS-25 engines, as during an actual launch.



SpaceDaily.com

Touching the Asteroid Ryugu

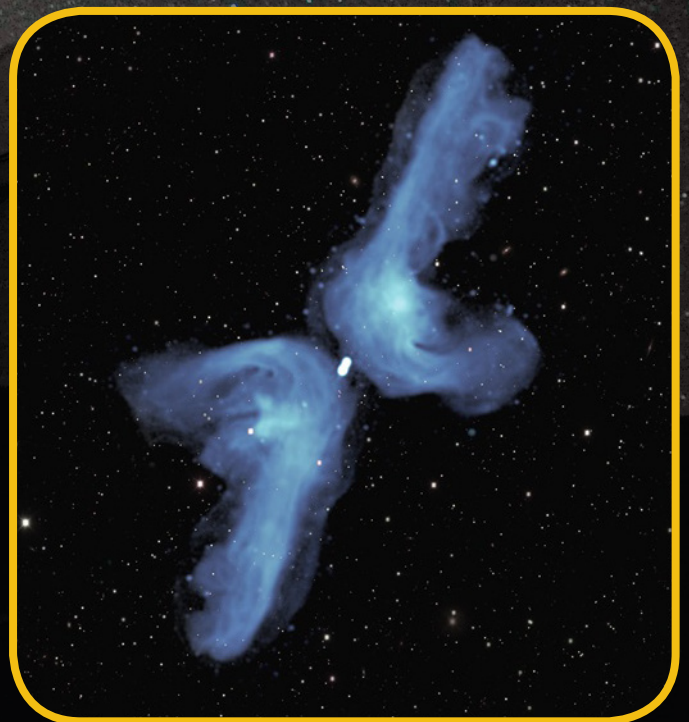


It's a spectacular achievement to rendezvous with an asteroid as it's whizzing around the sun. It's even more amazing to collect a sample. That's what the Hayabusa2 spacecraft did in February 2019. So it is that the simple act of firing a small pellet of metal into a rather unremarkable asteroid has revealed a detailed story of that asteroid's life, from formation, through its journey across the inner solar system, to the processes that continue to shape its surface today. That we can learn so much from visiting an asteroid and characterizing its surface is astonishing. What more will we learn when we get those samples back next year?

EarthSky.org

Why is This Galaxy Shaped Like a Boomerang?

Like a pirate attempting to find treasure, astronomers from South Africa and the United States followed the "X" to reach the answer to a mysterious phenomenon happening in deep space. In galaxies with an active supermassive black hole, astronomers often see twin jets erupting from their center. These jets typically spew outward into space in opposite directions. But in the galaxy PKS 2014-55, about 800 million light-years from Earth, the jets coming from its central supermassive black hole don't act like this. Instead, this galaxy — and other "X-galaxies" like it — appears to have four jets forming the shape of an "X."



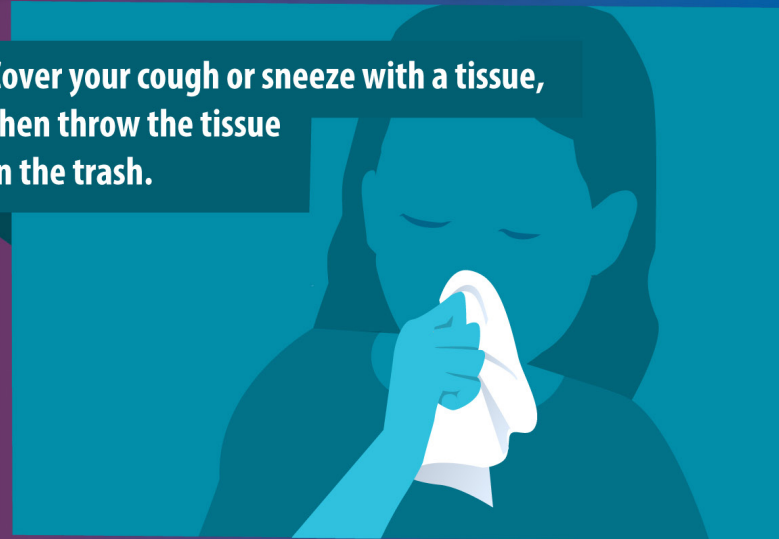
Astronomy.org

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

Behind Betelgeuse

Image Credit & Copyright: Adam Block, Steward Observatory, University of Arizona

What's behind Betelgeuse? One of the brighter and more unusual stars in the sky, the red supergiant star Betelgeuse can be found in the direction of famous constellation Orion. Betelgeuse, however, is actually well in front of many of the constellation's other bright stars, and also in front of the greater Orion Molecular Cloud Complex. Numerically, light takes about 700 years to reach us from Betelgeuse, but about 1,300 years to reach us from the Orion Nebula and its surrounding dust and gas. All but the largest telescopes see Betelgeuse as only a point of light, but a point so bright that the inherent blurriness created by the telescope and Earth's atmosphere make it seem extended. In the featured long-exposure image, thousands of stars in our Milky Way Galaxy can be seen in the background behind Betelgeuse, as well as dark dust from the Orion Molecular Cloud, and some red-glowing emission from hydrogen gas on the outskirts of the more distant Lambda Orionis Ring. Betelgeuse has recovered from appearing unusually dim over the past six months, but is still expected to explode in a spectacular supernova sometime in the next (about) 100,000 years.

apod.nasa.gov



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