

Space Geeks!

Obsessing about the culture of space travel.

[NASA Developing Nuclear Reactor For Moon and Mars](#)

August 17th, 2009

AI writes "NASA recently finished testing a miniature nuclear reactor that would provide power for an astronaut base on the Moon or Mars. The reactor combines a small fission system with a Stirling engine to make a 'safe, reliable, and efficient' way to produce electricity. The system being tested at NASA's Glenn Research Center can produce 2.3 kilowatts and could be ready for launch by 2020, NASA officials say. The reactor ought to provide much more power than solar panels but could prove controversial with the public concerned about launching a nuclear power source and placing it on the Moon or another planet."

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[NASA's Cashflow Problem Puts Moon Trip In Doubt](#)

August 17th, 2009

krou writes "According to the Guardian, the Augustine panel is going to declare that there is simply no money to go back to the moon, and the next-generation Ares I rocket is likely to be scrapped unless there is more funding. The \$81B Constellation Program's long-term goal of putting a human on Mars is almost certainly not going to be possible by the middle of the century. The options outlined by the panel for the future of NASA 'are to extend the working life of the aging space shuttle fleet beyond next year's scheduled retirement until 2015, while developing a cheaper transport to the moon; pressing ahead with Constellation as quickly as existing funding allows; or creating a new, larger rocket that would allow exploration of the solar system while bypassing the moon.' All of this means that NASA won't be back on the moon before the end of the next decade as hoped, 'or even leaving lower Earth orbit for at least another two decades.' Another result of the monetary black hole is that they don't have the '\$300m to expand a network of telescopes and meet

the government's target of identifying, by 2020, at least 90% of the giant space rocks that pose a threat to Earth.'"

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[**NASA Launches New Technology: An Inflatable Heat Shield**](#)

August 17th, 2009

A successful NASA flight test Monday demonstrated how a spacecraft returning to Earth can use an inflatable heat shield to slow and protect itself as it enters the atmosphere at hypersonic speeds.

[NASA Breaking News](#)

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[**NASA Sets Briefing about Shuttle Discovery's Readiness to Launch**](#)

August 17th, 2009

NASA managers will hold a news conference on Tuesday, Aug. 18, at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida to discuss the status of the next space shuttle launch.

[NASA Breaking News](#)

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[**NASA Completes Assembly of Ares I-X Test Rocket**](#)

August 17th, 2009

For the first time in more than a quarter-century a new space vehicle stands ready in NASA's Kennedy Space Center Vehicle Assembly Building.

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[**NASA and ATK Set New Date for Full-Scale Ares I Motor Test**](#)

August 17th, 2009

NASA and Alliant Techsystems Inc., or ATK, will conduct

the first full-scale, full-duration test of the new first-stage solid rocket motor for the Ares I rocket at 1 p.m. MDT, on Thursday, Aug. 27

[NASA Breaking News](#)

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[**‘Big Wave’ Theory Offers Alternative to Dark Energy**](#)

August 17th, 2009

Mathematicians have proposed an alternative explanation for the accelerating expansion of the universe that does not rely on the mystifying idea of dark energy.

[From Space.com](#)

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[**New Video – NASA’s Vision: How to Live Off-World**](#)

August 17th, 2009

NASA explains what we learn about the human body and

exploration by conducting missions to the ISS. Credit: NASA
[From Space.com](#)

Posted in [Space News](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[What's the Biggest Known Planet?](#)

August 17th, 2009

Pluto debate aside, scientists have found similar confusion regarding planetary definitions at the big end of the scale.
[From Space.com](#)

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[Comparing Craters on Earth and the Moon](#)

August 17th, 2009

Learn why the moon is so pockmarked compared to the Earth.
[From Space.com](#)

Posted in [Space News](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[Targeted Launch of STS-133 or STS-134 shuttle mission](#)

August 14th, 2009

When: Thu Jul 29, 2010

Event Status: confirmed

Posted in [NASA History](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[Targeted Launch of STS-133 or STS-134 shuttle mission](#)

August 14th, 2009

When: Thu Sep 16, 2010

Event Status: confirmed

Posted in [NASA History](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[WISE Launch](#)

August 14th, 2009

When: Thu Dec 10, 2009

Event Status: confirmed

Posted in [NASA History](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[Glory Launch](#)

August 14th, 2009

When: Thu Apr 1, 2010

Event Status: confirmed

Posted in [NASA History](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[Launch of Discovery on STS-131](#)

August 14th, 2009

When: Thu Mar 18, 2010 5:08pm to Fri Mar 19, 2010 4am
UTC

Event Status: confirmed

Posted in [NASA History](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[Launch of Atlantis on STS-132](#)

August 14th, 2009

When: Fri May 14, 2010 7:05pm to Sat May 15, 2010 4am UTC

Event Status: confirmed

Posted in [NASA History](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[Targeted Launch of Ares I-X Test Flight](#)

August 14th, 2009

When: Sat Oct 31, 2009

Event Status: confirmed

Posted in [NASA History](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[SDO United Launch Alliance Atlas V](#)

August 14th, 2009

When: Fri Dec 4, 2009

Event Status: confirmed

Posted in [NASA History](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[Launch of WISE](#)

August 14th, 2009

When: Sun Nov 1, 2009

Event Status: confirmed

Posted in [NASA History](#) | [No Comments](#) »

[NASA To Text Message Interplanetary Cousins](#)

August 14th, 2009

An anonymous reader writes "Inhabitants of the planet Gliese 581d will need a radio receiver and the ability to interpret binary code if they are to understand a series of text messages

to be sent from Australia. Hello from Earth will collect the messages over the next 12 days and transmit them to the closest Earth-like planet that has the potential to harbor life. All the messages will be collected and exported as a text file and sent to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, where it will be encoded into binary code, packaged and tested before transmission."

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This Day In NASA History

Today



**Thursday,
October 1**

NASA began operat

**Sunday, October
4**

Sputnik Launched b

Friday, October 9

LCROSS Lunar Imp

**Wednesday,
October 14**

X-1 -- First Piloted F

**Saturday, October
31**



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