

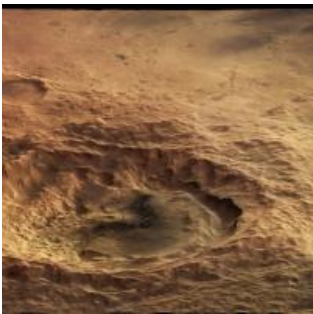


SPACE NEWS

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Last week in space



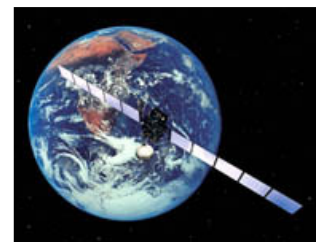
Seen one Martian crater and you've seen them all right? Well, check this one out. It's an image of Maander Crater on the surface of Mars, captured by ESA's Mars Express. Although the crater is large, 90 km (56 miles) across, it's very shallow - less than a kilometre. It used to be much deeper, but some geologic process has since filled it in. The images of Maander crater were captured in late 2005 by Mars Express at a resolution of roughly 15 metres per pixel. The crater, named after British astronomer Edward W. Maander, is located about halfway between Argyre Planitia and Hellas Planitia on the southern Highlands of Mars.

NASA'S Hubble Space Telescope has found a galaxy that is the equivalent of the painting of Dorian Gray, a portrait in an Oscar Wilde novel that appears mysteriously to age. Like the fictional painting, the galaxy I Zwicky 18 appears to look older the more astronomers study it. What astronomers once thought was a toddler galaxy by galactic standards may now be considered an adult.



With eyes that peer into the most energetic phenomena in the universe, ESA's Integral has been setting records, discovering the unexpected and helping understanding the unknown over its first five years. Integral was launched on 17 October 2002. Since then, the satellite has helped scientists make great strides in understanding the gamma-ray universe - from the atoms that make up all matter, giant black holes and mysterious gamma-ray bursts to the densest objects in the universe. For more click here: www.esa.int/esaSC/SEM0SGAMS7F_index_0.html

The thrusters of ESA's comet chaser, Rosetta, were fired last week in a planned, 42-second trajectory correction manoeuvre designed to 'fine tune' the spacecraft's approach to Earth. Rosetta is now approaching Earth for its second planetary swing-by of 2007. After passing Mars in April 2007, Rosetta is now approaching Earth for the second time - the third of four planetary swing-bys that provide fuel-saving gravitational assists enabling the spacecraft to ultimately reach and cross the orbit of comet 64P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko in 2014. For more, click here: www.esa.int/esaSC/SEMKB9JJX7F_index_0.html



Not to be missed next week

On Wednesday, the satellite Cassini will be flying by three of Saturn's moons; Helene, Prometheus and Pallene. To be among the first to see the images take a look here: <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.cfm>

Friday is the night of the full moon and the largest full moon for this year.

On Saturday night the moon will pass in the front of the Pleiades.