



UZH Space Hub Newsletter



Dear UZH Space Hub Community

In this newsletter, you will find some interesting opportunities for students and researchers. Moreover, we would like to invite young researcher to the next Space Café event. Finally, if you are curious about startups, do not miss our interview with Reik Leiterer in our monthly section *Meet a Space Scientist*.

Have a nice read,

UZH Space Hub Team

News

Unique Planetary System

CHEOPS, the first Swiss-led mission of ESA, revealed a unique planetary system consisting of six exoplanets, five of which follow a rhythmic dance as they move in their orbits. This phenomenon, called orbital resonance, means that there are patterns that repeat themselves as the planets go around the star, with some planets aligning every few orbits. Moreover, combining this data from Cheops with observations taken with ground-based telescopes at the European Southern Observatory's (ESO) Paranal Observatory in Chile, showed that these planets have peculiar sizes and masses not following the current theories of planet formation: a new challenge to understand how planets form and evolve. Image credits: ESA



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Science Upgrades Spacewalk

First spacewalk of the year outside the International Space Station (ISS) has been successful! Two NASA astronauts, Michael Hopkins and Victor Glover, ventured outside the ISS on January 27 to finish installing the European science platform Bartolomeo, which is now partially operational and in a safe configuration following the connection of four of six cables to the science platform. The final two cables that could not be connected will be attended to on a future spacewalk. Image credits: NASA TV



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Intelligent Road for Autonomous Cars

Where to test autonomous vehicles? On an intelligent road, equipped with cameras, lidar, ultra-wideband antennas and reflective panels. This 10-km road, known as Snowbox and located on Finland's E8 highway, is underpinned by power and fibre optic lines, and embedded with pressure sensors to record road surface conditions and the speed and type of vehicles driving along it. Linked to the FinnRef network of satellite navigation reference stations, Snowbox can also deliver corrections for precise satellite navigation positioning. ESA's Navigation Innovation and Support Programme (NAVISP) – developing new future positioning, navigation and timing technologies and services – now offers the opportunity for industry and national institutions to undertake similar initiatives. Image credits: ESA



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Events

Earth Observation & Reinsurance @ Space Café

What use do insurance and reinsurance companies make of Earth observation data? In case of natural disasters, EO data can help to study, quantify and manage the risk. In this Space Café discussion, two UZH alumni will introduce their roles at Swiss Re, explaining how their background in Earth Observation and natural sciences is applied in their day-to-day job, and sharing their personal journey from academia to the re/insurance sector.

This event will take place online via Zoom on March 4 at 14:00, registration is free but mandatory on our webpage.



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Opportunities

Mars Amity Research Station Program

Would you like to experience Mars exploration on an analog mission? The Amity Centre of Excellence in Astrobiology is establishing India's first Planetary Science, Education and Experience Program in a remote analogue environment. Whether you are an Earth/Planetary Science researcher, a student, a teacher or a space/climate enthusiast, you can join the MARS program, either as a [residence scientist](#) or as a [participant](#). Application deadline: February 15, 2021



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Glide Your Experiment Challenge

Would you like to fly your experiment in altered gravity conditions for free? This challenge, launched by LIDE, the first commercial provider of altered gravity test platforms, could be your opportunity. A team of researchers/students proposing a microgravity experiment will be selected and offered one glider parabolic flight for their experimental device with a cumulated duration in microgravity of about 60s. Applications covering any topic in exact sciences, human sciences, arts, etc. are welcome.

Application deadline: March 1, 2021



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Meet a Space Scientist

This month we have interviewed Reik Leiterer, CEO and co-founder of ExoLabs, a spin-off of the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) of the University of Zurich. The goal? To provide tailored software solutions, data products and scientific know-how based on geospatial and remote sensing data to support the private and public sector in gaining insights and efficiency at reduced costs.



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