




AQUA

EXTRA! TERRESTRIAL WATER

The Future of Water:
Human and business priority

January 2022

Point-of-View





Contents



Executive summary



Exploration of water in space



Water beyond the Earth

- Planets
- Moons & Dwarf planets
- Other objects in space



Future missions aimed at water in space exploration



Space water as a boost for long-distance missions



Water beyond the Earth mainly exists on planets & moons in the form of vapour, ice, liquid, and superionic ice

Key tools for space water search



Key discoveries

Planets and moons with the highest potential in terms of space water

MOON



In 2012, ice was found in the Shackleton Crater on the Moon's south pole.

In 2019, the LADEE³ mission discovered hydroxyl or water on the surface.

In 2020, SOFIA⁴ detected water molecules in the Moon's Clavius Crater.

MARS

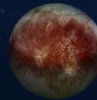


In 2015, the Curiosity rover identified the presence of liquid brine water.

In 2020, four underground lakes were found near the south pole of Mars.

In 2021, a canyon system was found, having water beneath its surface.

EUROPA



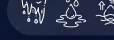
In 2013, NASA found H₂ and O₂ in plume-like patterns in atmosphere.

In 2019, water vapour was discovered above Europa's surface.

There are 3,0 billion km² of liquid saltwater under the icy surface.

Other planetary objects carrying water⁴

TITAN



CERES



GANYMEDE



ENCELADUS



CALLISTO



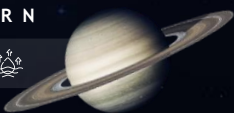
JUPITER



MIMAS



SATURN



URANUS



Source: NASA – Where is the Water? Two Resource-Hunting Tools for the Moon's Surface – [2019]; Harvard University – Water Beyond Earth: The Search for the Life-sustaining Liquid – [2019]; NASA website; ESA website; Media overview

Notes: (1) Neutron Spectrometer System; (2) Near-Infrared Volatiles Spectrometer System; (3) Lunar Atmosphere Dust and Environment Explorer; (4) Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy; (4) Selected



Future missions on the Moon, Mars, and Europa will boost space water exploration and accelerate space development

Key future missions aimed at water in space exploration



MARS

2022, Japan

Tera-hertz Explorer lander

2022, ESA / Roscosmos

ExoMars rover and surface platform

2024, NASA

EscaPADE – dual spacecraft mission

2026, NASA / ESA

Mars Sample Return mission



Water



Land area



Decent sunlight



Liquid salty ocean



Atomic particles¹



Energy



Water & Oxygen



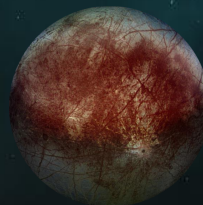
Precious metals



Helium-3

2024, NASA

Europa Clipper mission



EUROPA

2022, South Korea

Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter

2025, NASA

Artemis mission

2023-2027, China

Chang'e 6, Chang'e 7, Chang'e 8 missions

2025, NASA

Lunar Trailblazer mission



MOON

Space water as a boost for long-distance missions & space tourism



Lowering costs of rocket propellant production



Decreasing costs of life support systems in space



Fostering space agriculture development



Decreasing a radiation effect during space travel

Source: Nature – NASA’s Europa Clipper: A Mission to a Potentially Habitable Ocean World – [2020]; NASA website; ESA website; Space website; SpaceX website; Media overview

Notes: (1) Carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus, etc.



**EXPLORATION OF WATER
IN SPACE**

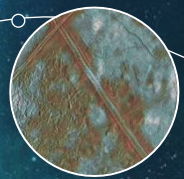


With scientific progress, scientists have learned to find evidence of water existence far beyond the Solar system

Selected milestones of water in space exploration



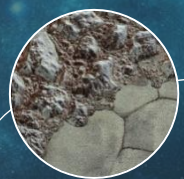
1976
Viking 2 (NASA) detected that the north polar cap of Mars is made of ice, rather than frozen CO₂



1999
Detailed photos from the Galileo spacecraft (NASA) showed an ice surface on Jupiter's moon Europa



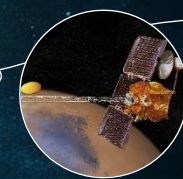
2001
SWAS¹ (NASA) found water around a distant star, IRC+10216 (CW Leonis), located 500 lightyears from the Earth



2015
The New Horizons probe (NASA) discovered that Pluto is mostly formed of ice and rock



2008
Ice on the surface of the Moon near the poles was confirmed via Mini-SAR² (NASA) and M3³ (ISRO⁴)



2002
The Odyssey mission (NASA) found a significant amount of hydrogen near the Martian equator



2019
NASA identified the presence of water vapour directly above Europa's surface



2020
SOFIA⁵ (NASA) detected water molecules in the Clavius Crater of the Moon's southern hemisphere



2021
NASA observed a cloud of floating water 140 trillion times the amount of water on the Earth⁶

Source: NASA – Viking Mission to Mars – [1988]; NASA website; Media overview
Notes: (1) Submillimeter Wave Astronomy Satellite (NASA); (2) Miniature Synthetic Aperture Radar; (3) Moon Mineralogical Mapper; (4) Indian Space Research Organisation, Chandrayaan-1 mission; (5) Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy; (6) Located 30 billion miles away in a quasar



Telescopes, landers, rovers, and spectrometer systems are the key tools that are used for water search in space



Optical telescope

An optical telescope collects visible light and produces **visual images of distant bodies**. It indicates the brightness and structures, as well as mountains and valleys on the other planets.



Space telescope

A space telescope **operates in outer space** and provides extremely **high-resolution images** with a substantially lower background light of the planet's geological features.



NSS^{1,2}

An NSS helps to understand the behaviour of hydrogen in space. It is **able to identify hydrogen** up to 0,9 metres below the surface and measures changes in the number and energy of neutrons to detect it.



NIRVSS^{2,3}

The tool **distinguishes the nature of the absorbed materials** and **identifies their composition**. Its role in Moon exploration is to detect different types of minerals and ices present in the soil, including water.

A rover lands and drives on the planet's surface to determine the **size, shape, and material of rocks**. It also provides high-resolution images of the surface due to its built camera and collects samples for further analysis.



Rover



Lander

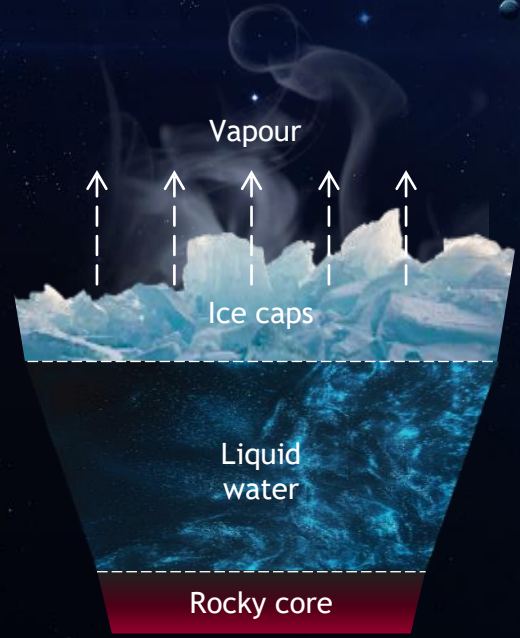
A lander picks samples from the surface and places them within the analytical chamber. Further, **chemical composition and types of minerals are determined**. For instance, a lander might identify clay minerals that are indicators of water.




Source: NASA – Where is the Water? Two Resource-Hunting Tools for the Moon's Surface – [2019]; Harvard University – Water Beyond Earth: The search for the life-sustaining liquid – [2019]; NASA website
Notes: (1) Neutron Spectrometer System; (2) Created by NASA's Ames Research Center and used for exploration of the Moon; (3) Near-Infrared Volatiles Spectrometer System


Ice is the most spread water form found on Solar system bodies, besides other forms – vapour and liquid water

Forms of water in space




 Vapour mostly exists on the planets that have an atmosphere.



 Ice caps are made of frozen water and form underground ice deposits.



 Liquid water exists beneath the surface of planetary bodies, similar to groundwater on the Earth.



Selected Solar system bodies with different forms of water





**WATER BEYOND
THE EARTH**

Evidence of water existence in various forms has been found both in the Solar system and beyond its boundaries

Selected planets, moons, and dwarf planets carrying different forms of water



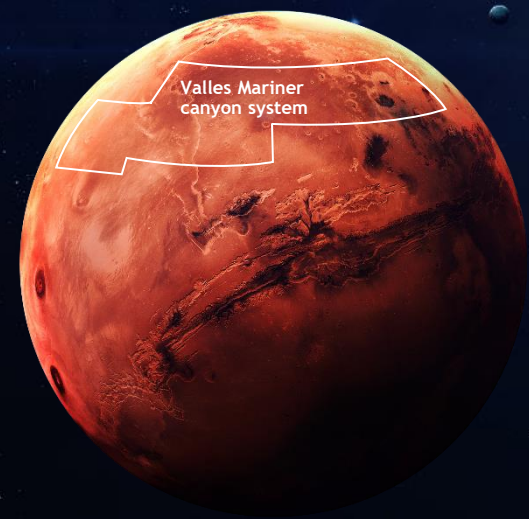
A cosmic scene featuring a large Earth in the center, a smaller Moon to its left, and another planet in the bottom left. A bright blue horizon line curves across the bottom. The background is dark with stars and faint nebulae.

WATER BEYOND THE EARTH: PLANETS



A large amount of water that could be reachable in the near future was found on Mars under the equator surface

MARS



CO₂ and vapour on Mars

In 1947, carbon dioxide was detected as one of the components of the Martian atmosphere. In 1963, **water vapour** was discovered.



More lake discoveries

In 2020, four underground lakes were found near the south pole. They are assumed to be extremely salty, so microbial life there is impossible.



Ancient freshwater lakes

In 2013, the chemical analysis of the Martian rock taken by NASA's Curiosity rover revealed evidence that Mars could have sustained **microbial life**.



Water reserves in Valles Marineris¹

In 2021, the ESA-Roscosmos orbiter discovered a **canyon system** on Mars that has **water** beneath the surface and a significant amount of **hydrogen**.



Liquid brine water

In 2015, **liquid brine water** was identified by the Curiosity rover (NASA) in the upper five centimetres of the Martian subsurface at night.



Unstable water distribution

The planet's distinct peculiarity is **vapour migration and dryness**, resulting from dust storms during the southern summer.



Ice



Liquid



Vapour

Source: NASA website; ESA website; BBC website; Media overview



NASA estimates that Jupiter's water reserves in Great Red Spot might even be larger compared to the Earth's ones

JUPITER



Ice



Vapour



No possibility of life on Jupiter
Scientists believe that Jupiter's environment is unsuitable for life. The planet's conditions are too extreme for the adaptation of organisms.



Composition of Jupiter
Jupiter is composed mostly of hydrogen and helium. Thus, Jupiter has the largest ocean in the Solar system, which is made of hydrogen instead of water.



First evidence of water
In the 1970s, Voyager¹ detected some lightning storms on Jupiter, which could be a sign of water presence on the planet, as well as the dynamic weather system.



Underestimation of water reserves
Juno's mission¹ (NASA) discovered that water amounts to 0,25% of the molecules in Jupiter's atmosphere. It was much greater than what the Galileo² probe measured.



Ice and vapour in the cloud layers
Jupiter has three distinct cloud layers, which together span ~71 kilometres. The inner layer is possibly made of ice and vapour, while the top – of ammonia ice.



More water than on the Earth
In 2018, scientists found a lot of water in Jupiter's Great Red Spot³. In total, it might contain more water than the amount of water on the Earth.

Source: Forbes — Is Jupiter A Water World? — [2020]; NASA website; Media overview
Notes: (1) NASA's space probe orbiting Jupiter; (2) NASA's space probe that studied Jupiter in the 1990s;
(3) Persistent high-pressure region in the atmosphere of Jupiter



Scientists consider Saturn's rings and more than 60 of its moons to be mostly made of Earth-like water

SATURN



Water in the atmosphere of Saturn
There is water in the atmosphere of Saturn with concentrations **greater than one part per billion**. Around 75% of Saturn's atmosphere is hydrogen and 25% – helium.



Water vapour from geysers
Water from the **geysers¹** of the subglacial ocean of Enceladus² may be the source of water ice in Saturn's rings, which gives them shine and brightness.



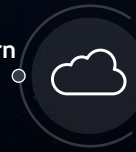
Different concentrations of water
The **highest** water concentration is at the equator, and the **lowest** – at the poles of Saturn's gaseous shell, which confirms that water on Saturn could not have appeared from the comet.



Water on Phoebe³
Water in Saturn's rings and satellites does not differ from the Earth. Phoebe also has water, yet with a specific formula not found anywhere in the Solar system.



Possibility of rain on Saturn
The first suggestion about rain on Saturn was made when **Voyager 1** noticed several dark belts. In 2011, rainy areas were found via the telescopes of the Hawaiian Keck Observatory.



Invisible clouds
Water from the upper atmosphere of Saturn moves to lower levels. It **condenses**, but the formed clouds are invisible since the amount of water is small.



Ice



Liquid



Vapour

Source: NASA website; ESA website; USGS website; CNN website; Media overview

14 Notes: (1) Discovered by the Cassini probe; (2) Satellite of Saturn; (3) Irregular satellite of Saturn



Being one of the ice giants, Uranus has very deep ice layers under its atmosphere, unlike the terrestrial planets

URANUS



Ice giant
Uranus is classified as one of the ice giants and is assumed to have large layers of ice or possibly liquid water under its atmosphere.



Closest glimpse
Being the 7th planet from the Sun, Uranus has limited research opportunities. The only spacecraft flying by was Voyager 2 in 1986.



Severe atmosphere
Uranus is one of the coldest planets. Its atmosphere mostly consists of hydrogen, helium, methane, as well as traces of water and ammonia.



Superionic water on Uranus
Scientists assume that superionic water might compose a large part of Uranus's inner layers and has higher electrical conductivity².



Uranus's composition
Around 80% of Uranus's mass is water, methane, and ammonia that form a hot dense fluid of icy materials located above the rocky core.



Uranus's moons
Uranus's inner moons are comprised of approximately half water ice and half rock, while the structure of outer moons still remains unknown.



Ice



Liquid¹



Vapour



Superionic¹

Source: NASA website; EarthSky website; Media overview



**WATER BEYOND THE EARTH:
MOONS & DWARF PLANETS**



Scientists focus on the exploration of the Moon to look for potential water sources in the closest distance to the Earth

MOON



Clavius Crater
Shackleton Crater

Ice¹ Liquid



Existence of ice on the Moon
In 1961, the existence of ice in the floors of polar lunar craters was supposed, while most of the lunar surface was presumed to be completely dry.



Discovery of molecular water
In 2019, the LADEE² mission (NASA) revealed that hydroxyl or water existed on the sun-shining surface of the Moon, and might be found throughout all lunar surfaces.



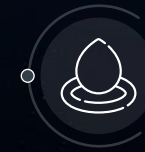
First evidence of water
In 2008, the exploration of lunar rock samples from the Apollo missions provided evidence of the existence of water molecules in volcanic glasses.



Water in the Clavius Crater
In 2020, SOFIA³ (NASA) detected water molecules in the Moon's Clavius Crater on the southern hemisphere using an infrared telescope.



Ice in the Shackleton Crater
In 2012, ice was found in the Shackleton Crater on the Moon's south pole. The crater is more than 19 kilometres wide and 3 kilometres deep, similar to the Earth's oceans.



Limited water concentration
The amount of liquid water detected by SOFIA in the lunar regolith is 100 times less than in the Sahara Desert. Its concentration is 100 to 412 parts per million.

Source: Space — Huge Moon Crater's Water Ice Supply Revealed — [2012]; NASA website; Planetary website; Media overview
Notes: (1) The expected amount of water ice on the Moon is 20% of the surface and the lunar poles have over 600 billion kilogrammes of water ice;
(2) Lunar Atmosphere Dust and Environment Explorer; (3) Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy



Ceres is the largest dwarf planet, which has 20-30% of water ice under a thin outer layer of dust and rock

CERES



Occator Crater



Ice



Vapour



Potential life on Ceres

Scientists focus on **discovering life signs on Ceres**. Since water presence is a crucial aspect of life, it has a **perspective for further research**.



Icy dwarf planet²

The Dawn mission discovered that Ceres's density is **~2,2 grammes per cubic centimetre**. Thus, scientists suggest that **~25% of its mass is water ice**.



Ancient salty water

In the 1800s, salts bearing water that **quickly dehydrated** were noticed on Ceres. The Dawn mission concluded that **salt compounds concentrate within the Occator Crater** and still have water.



Ceres's composition

In 2015, the Dawn mission (NASA) discovered that Ceres contains **20-30% of water ice**, and its bowels are divided into a **rocky core** and a **thin outer ice mantle**.



Discovery of water vapour

In 2014, the ESAHSO¹ detected **water vapour around Ceres**, which created a **transient atmosphere, known as an exosphere**.



Probable presence of oceans

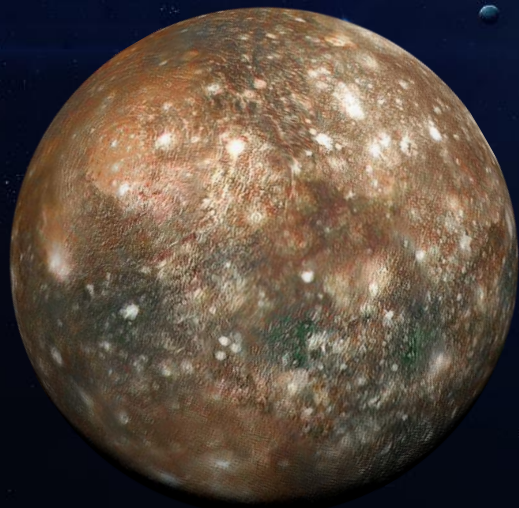
In 2020, scientists found that a **liquid ocean comes from an underground reservoir of water, located 40 kilometres below the surface**.

Source: NASA website; ESA website; Media overview



Jupiter's second-largest moon might have a salty ocean under the surface and the potential for supporting life

CALLISTO



Ice



Liquid¹



Jupiter's huge moon

Callisto is Jupiter's second-largest moon, which is also the third-biggest moon in the whole Solar system, with an icy surface densely covered with craters.



Callisto's salty ocean

Callisto was believed to be composed of only rock and ice for a long time. However, in the 1990s NASA's Galileo spacecraft discovered that it has an underground salty ocean.



Structure of Callisto

The composition of Callisto is assumed to have almost equal parts of water ice and rocks. The share of ice, which contains ammonia, constitutes up to 55% of Callisto's structure.



Possibility of life

Scientists assume that the ocean under Callisto's surface might reach up to 250 kilometres below the surface, therefore, creating a possibility of life on Callisto.



Icy surface

Spectroscopy discovered the presence of water ice, carbon dioxide, silicates, and organics on Callisto. The mass share of ice on Callisto's surface is assumed to compose up to 25-50%.



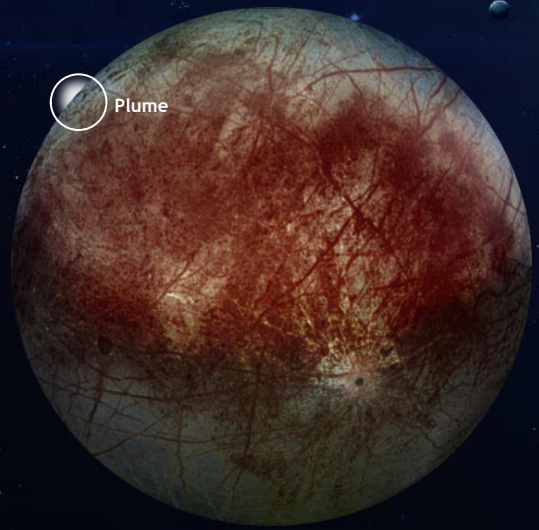
Callisto's further exploration

ESA aims to send the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer spacecraft to Jupiter, which is projected to arrive by 2029, and fly by Callisto to get more data about its water and potential life.



Under the miles-thick ice cover, Europa has a liquid water ocean that could be twice as large as the one on the Earth

EUROPA



Plume



Potential presence of water

In 1979, two American Voyager spacecraft (NASA) explored the Jupiter system, providing the first evidence that Europa might have liquid water.



Possible water plumes

In 2013, NASA found the chemical elements hydrogen and oxygen in plume-like patterns in Europa's atmosphere, confirming the earlier atomic species detections.



Existence of global ocean

Based on the findings from the Galileo mission in 1989 (NASA), scientists built a hypothesis that there is a global ocean of salty water under the icy surface of Europa.



Detection of water vapour

In 2019, NASA discovered vapour directly above Europa's surface. Via one of the world's largest telescopes in Hawaii, scientists managed to measure the vapour.



Amount of water on Europa

According to NASA estimations, there are ~3,0 billion cubic kilometres of liquid saltwater under the icy surface, which is about twice as much as on the Earth.



Further exploration

In 2024, NASA plans to launch the Europa Clipper that will study Europa's interior to confirm the presence of the ocean and assess the possibility of life on Europa.



Ice



Liquid



Vapour



Ganymede, Jupiter's satellite, is thought to hold significantly more water than all of the Earth's oceans

GANYMEDE



Ganymede's composition
Jupiter's moon is made of equal amounts of **silicate rock** and **water ice**. A **liquid core** of Ganymede is rich in **iron**.



Subterranean ocean
In 2015, Hubble Space Telescope found evidence of a **salty ocean** — 100 kilometres thick and buried under a 150 kilometres thick ice crust.



Magnetosphere¹
In 1996, NASA's Galileo spacecraft captured **sounds of whistling and static** sounds generated by Ganymede's magnetosphere.



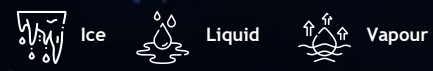
Water vapour
In 2021, NASA obtained the presence of **water vapour in the atmosphere**. This water vapour is formed when ice from the surface sublimates.



Beneath the ice
In 2004, NASA discovered **irregular lumps** beneath the icy surface. The irregular masses might be **rock formations**, supported by an icy shell.

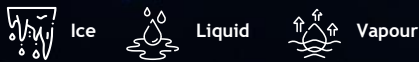
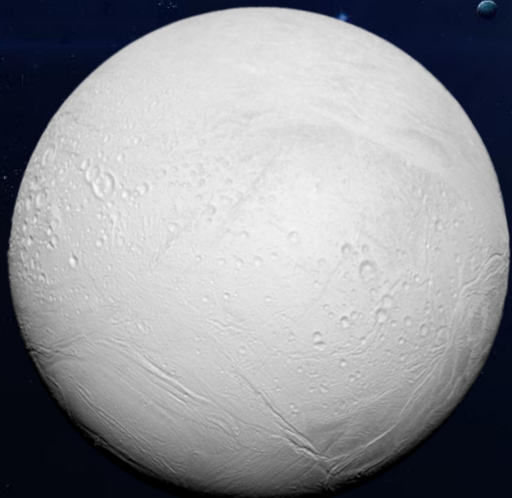


Further explorations
The future mission focused on the Ganymede research is **JUICE** (ESA, 2022). It will explore the icy **Galilean moons** with a focus on Ganymede.



There is evidence of a water subsurface ocean with a 10 kilometres thickness on Saturn's satellite Enceladus

ENCELADUS



Enceladus's composition

In the 1980s, it was revealed that the icy surface of Enceladus is smooth and bright white, making it one of the most reflective bodies in the Solar system and the brightest of all satellites.



Ocean on Enceladus

In 2010, Cassini discovered signs of a massive subsurface ocean on the south polar consisting of liquid water with a thickness of 10 kilometres behind a 30-40 kilometres ice crust.



Hidden ocean within the moon

In 2005, vapour, ice particles, and organic compounds pouring from the south polar area were discovered, which resulted in the assumption that the moon has a liquid water ocean.



Organic macromolecules

In June 2018, Southwest Research Institute scientists announced the discovery of complex organic macromolecules in samples collected by NASA's Cassini.



First detailed images of Enceladus

In 2008, Cassini (NASA) examined the plume and identified the presence of volatile gases, water vapour, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide, as well as organic compounds.



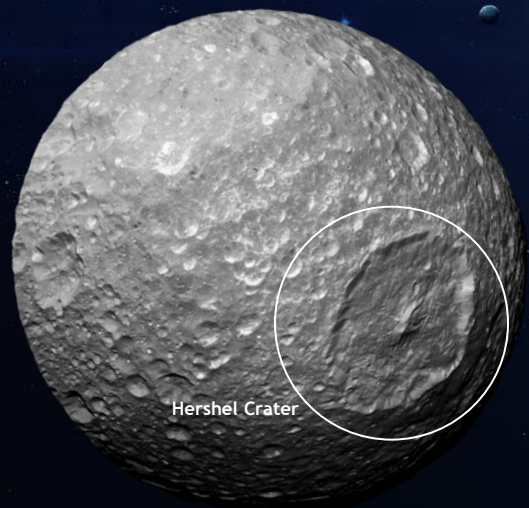
Further explorations

Despite the fact that the Cassini mission ended in 2017, researchers are still analysing the plume data to gain a deeper understanding of Enceladus's ocean.



Mimas is Saturn's smallest moon and is known for its massive ice deposits and enormous Herschel Crater

MIMAS



Herschel Crater



Ice



Liquid



Mimas's composition

Mimas's low density proves that it consists almost entirely of water ice, which is the only substance detected on Mimas. Rock is assumed to form around 1% of Mimas.



Herschel Crater

The Herschel Crater, named after the discoverer of Mimas, is its key defining feature and stretches **139 kilometres wide**. Its diameter is ~60% of the diameter of Mimas.



Mimas' motion

In 2014, NASA noted that the **librational motion** of Mimas might be caused by the **hydrostatic equilibrium** or by an **interior ocean**.



Closest glimpse

Mimas was captured several times by the Cassini orbiter, which entered Saturn's orbit in 2004. On 13 February 2010, Cassini passed by Mimas at a distance of 9.500 kilometres.



'Mimas Test' paradox

Tidal heating is much stronger on Mimas than on Saturn's moon Enceladus, yet water geysers were noticed on Enceladus instead. This paradox was called the 'Mimas Test'.



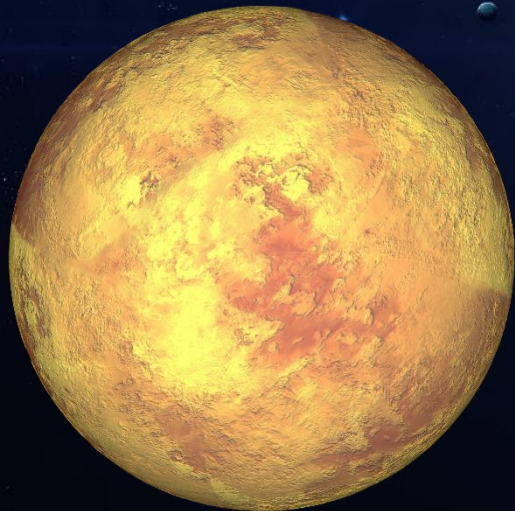
Possible ocean on Mimas

In 2022, Cassini mission showed that Mimas might be warm enough to harbour a liquid ocean beneath a 24-31 kilometres thick ice shell.



Titan has liquid bodies on the surface, such as rivers, lakes, and seas, as well as the liquids circulation cycle

TITAN



Moon with liquid bodies

Titan is Saturn's largest moon and the second-biggest moon in the Solar system, which has liquid bodies on the surface, including rivers, lakes, and seas.



Titan's structure

Titan is supposed to have a multi-layer composition: the rocky core covered with ice, a layer of salty liquid water, the outer crust of ice, and an organic-rich atmosphere.



Liquids circulation

Titan is the only moon in the Solar system, which has a circulation cycle of liquids, analogous to the one on the Earth. Liquids rain from clouds, fill lakes and seas, and then evaporate.



Prevention of ice melting

Cold temperature and high pressures prevent the melting of ice, therefore, there is almost no liquid water in the atmosphere, and ice plays the role of rock.



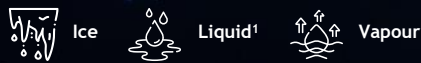
Water vapour

In December 1997, the European Space Agency's Infrared Space Observatory revealed the presence of water vapour in Titan's atmosphere.



Underground ocean

The Cassini spacecraft and the Huygens probe discovered an ocean of liquid water possibly mixed with salts and ammonia that might reach 55-80 kilometres under the surface.



A field of various-sized, dark, irregularly shaped asteroids floating in a dark blue space filled with stars and a nebula. The asteroids are scattered across the frame, with some appearing larger and more detailed than others. The background is a deep blue with a soft glow from a nebula in the upper right and numerous small white stars.

**WATER BEYOND THE EARTH:
OTHER OBJECTS IN SPACE**

Comets and asteroids might have carried a large part of ocean water at the early stage of the Earth's development

What is a comet?

A comet is composed of the rock-ice nucleus, the atmosphere that appears as the part of ice begins to melt and boil off together with particles of dust, and the tail.



Possible source of water

Scientists assume that comets might have played a key role in delivering water to the Earth, as water on comets might have the same origin as in the Earth's oceans.

What is an asteroid?

An asteroid is composed of rock, metals, other elements, and sometimes water. It is assumed that water on asteroids might be in the form of ice or hydrated minerals.



Potential answer for water origin

Scientists guess that almost half of the Earth's ocean water could have been brought with asteroids due to the similarity of isotopes distribution.

Halley's Comet

This comet approaches the Earth every 75 years. It was revealed that gases ejected from the nucleus composed ~80% of vapour, yet, of a different kind than on the Earth.

46P / Wirtanen comet

In 2018, SOFIA¹ discovered that comet 46P / Wirtanen contains Earth-like water. It is the third known comet to have the same D/H ratio² as terrestrial water.

Proved presence of water

The first evidence of water on asteroids was in 2010 when Scientists found water ice on asteroid 24 Themis. In 2018, hydrated minerals were discovered on Benu.

Itokawa asteroid

In 2019, Arizona State University researchers detected water and organic contents in dust particles of 25143 Itokawa, brought by Japan's Hayabusa spacecraft in 2010.

Source: NASA website; ESA website; Space website; Media overview

Notes: (1) Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (NASA); (2) Ratio between heavy hydrogen and hydrogen in natural waters and other fluids that indicates the origin and geologic history of the fluid, as well as shows data on fluid and rock interactions



The Kuiper Belt contains millions of various-size icy objects, the Orion Nebula generates a huge amount of water vapour

Faraway belt

The Kuiper Belt is one of the largest structures in the Solar system located beyond Neptune's orbit. It has a doughnut-shaped ring and consists of icy bodies.

Structure of Kuiper Belt

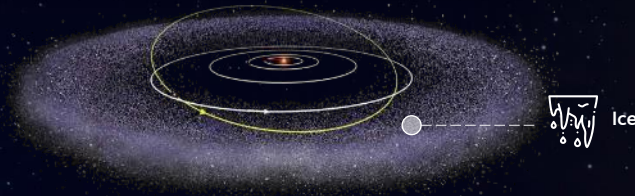
The Kuiper Belt might comprise millions of icy objects that were created as leftovers from the Solar system formation. It has hundreds of thousands of icy bodies >100 kilometres.

Orion Nebula

The Orion Nebula is the closest region of star formation to the Earth. It includes thousands of stars, as well as planet-mass objects surrounded by hydrogen and other elements.

Discovery of life elements

Scientists discovered the presence of elements needed for supporting life, such as water, methanol, sulphur dioxide, and hydrogen sulphide, using the Herschel Telescope.



Kuiper Belt Objects (KBOs)

KBOs include both small and large bodies that might reach 1.000 kilometres in diameter, which are composed of rock, water ice, and various frozen compounds, namely ammonia and methane.

Ultima Thule

In 2019, during the New Horizons spacecraft flyby, NASA discovered a combination of methanol, water ice, and organic molecules on the surface of Ultima Thule – the farthest object explored by mankind.

Enormous amount of vapour

Scientists found vapour using an astronomical satellite Infrared Space Observatory. The amount of water molecules generated in a day in the Orion Nebula might be enough to fill the Earth's oceans 60 times.



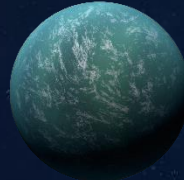
NASA's Hubble Space Telescope found signs of water and vapour in the atmospheres of several exoplanets

Selected exoplanets¹ containing signs of water^{2,3}

Gliese 581c, Gliese 581d, and Gliese 581g in the Gliese 581 system might have liquid water. In 2019, it was discovered that Gliese 581d might have a dense atmosphere, water oceans, and even traces of life. Gliese 581c is also in the habitable zone.



Gliese 581c, Gliese 581d, and Gliese 581g



Kepler-22b



Discovered in 2011, Kepler-22b potentially could be an ocean planet. It likely has a volatile composition with a liquid or gaseous shell, and life might exist in this ocean.

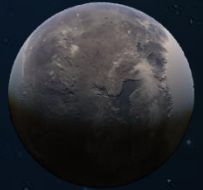


Kepler-452b

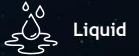


Kepler-452b is assumed to have lakes, pools, and rivers. Probably there could be oceans, yet all of them have dried up. The majority of the surface is blue, indicating water with patches of land.

In 2016, it was assumed that Kepler-62f might be an ocean-covered planet with water on its surface. It also could have climate changes similar to those happening on the Earth.



Kepler-62f



K2-18b is the only exoplanet with both liquid water and acceptable temperatures for the emergence of life. Its atmosphere also contains vapour, hydrogen, and helium.



K2-18b



Source: Nature Astronomy website; NASA website; Media overview

Notes: (1) Planets outside the Solar system; (2) All pictures are an artist's conception; (3) All types of water are only assumed to be presented on exoplanets



**FUTURE MISSIONS AIMED AT
WATER IN SPACE EXPLORATION**



The James Webb Space Telescope will study phases of cosmic history, including the birth of stars and life's origins

James Webb Space Telescope is a space-based observatory with large primary mirror and infrared instruments that orbits the Sun at 1,5 million kilometres from the Earth.

Key facts

Launch date: 25 December 2021

Cost: 8,8 Bn Euro¹

Lifetime: 10 years

Partners: NASA, ESA, CSA²

Mirror size: 6,5 metres

Mass: 6.200 kg

Operating temperature: -230°C

Travel distance: 1,5 million kilometres from the Earth



Key goals of James Webb Space Telescope



Studying Universe

Using the powerful infrared vision, the James Webb Telescope will search for the first galaxies and luminous objects that developed after the Big Bang.



Galaxies development survey

Considering remarkable infrared sensitivity, the James Webb Telescope will examine the galaxies' evolution process starting from their formation until the present time.



Star lifecycle observation

Another Telescope's key goal is the observation of the full star formation process, starting from the first stages to the establishment of planetary systems.



Discovering other worlds

The James Webb Telescope will examine atmospheres and measure chemical & physical characteristics of planetary systems to discover potential life.



Future missions will focus on the exploration of the lunar environment for conducting further activities on the Moon

Key reasons to explore the Moon



Water and oxygen to produce rocket fuel and establish a human base



Precious metals, rocks, and rare earths to create building & raw materials



Helium-3 to create fuel suitable for fusion energy generation

2023 SPACEX
SpaceX, #dearMoon project
Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa and up to eight other passengers will start the lunar tourism at the Starship spaceship.

2022
 South Korea, KPLO
Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter will start a technology demonstration mission to establish basic facilities for lunar exploration for South Korea.

2023-2024¹
 China, Chang'e 6
The mission will bring rock samples from the Moon's south pole and carry science payloads developed in France, Italy, Russia, and Sweden.

2024¹
 China, Chang'e 7
A relay satellite, a lander, a rover, and a mini flying craft will explore the lunar environment, including geological composition and location of water ice.

2025
NASA's Lunar Trailblazer
The mission within NASA's SIMPLEx² programme will study the lunar water cycle and detect traces of water ice and water trapped in rock.

2027¹
 China, Chang'e 8
The mission will start the reconstruction of the joint project between Russia and China – International Lunar Research Station.





Artemis's mission aims to establish a long-term presence on the Moon with further exploration of water and resources



Key objectives of Artemis's mission

Technology:
develop technologies to provide future deep-space missions

Long-term presence:
establish a base to extend the space trips to months

Knowledge:
get samples more strategically with the help of new advanced technologies

Resources:
further discover water on and rare minerals deposits to provide scientific and economic exploration

Estimated budget:
~82 Bn Euro¹

2021

2024



CAPSTONE CubeSat will test navigation techniques to reduce uncertainties



Artemis I³ will verify spacecraft performance



PPE & HALO⁴ launch will conduct research of the deep space environment



VIPER will explore the environment of the Moon in search of water ice and other resources



Artemis II⁵ will validate space communication and navigation systems



First CPLS² mission delivered 16 instruments to the Moon



Artemis III will bring the first woman and next man to the Moon



Source: NASA – Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate – [2019]; NASA – Lunar Exploration Programme Overview – [2020]; Media overview
Notes: (1) Numbers are converted from Euro to USD due to the average annual exchange rate by ECB; (2) Commercial Lunar Payload Services; (3) Uncrewed mission; (4) Power and Propulsion Element & Habitation and Logistics Outpost; (5) 10-day crewed test flight



Further exploration of Mars is crucial for studying a possible life existence and water presence on the planet

Key reasons to explore Mars



Water is locked into the Mars icy polar caps



Mars's land area is almost equal to the surface area of the Earth's continents



Mars still has decent sunlight as it is about half as far from the Sun as the Earth

2022

🇯🇵 Japan, TEREX¹

Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency will send a TEREX lander to study water and oxygen molecules, as well as search for water sources on Mars.

2024²



NASA, EscaPADE

The dual spacecraft mission will study the processes in Mars's magnetosphere, as well as its interaction with the Solar wind.

2024

🇯🇵 Japan, Martian Moons eXploration

The mission will study the surface of Mars's moons and bring the sample of Phobos to the Earth to survey the traces of water and organic materials.

2026



NASA / ASI³ / CSA / JAXA⁴, Mars Ice Mapper

The collaborative mission is directed at discovering location, depth, and abundance as well as mapping deposits of near-surface ice.

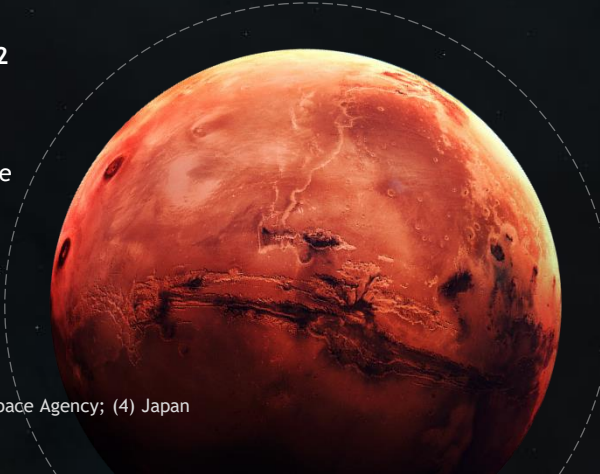
2022



ROSCOSMOS

ESA / Roscosmos, ExoMars 2022

An ExoMars rover and a surface platform will search for organic materials, as well as drill and analyse samples from the surface to study the possible life existence on Mars.



2026²



NASA / ESA, Mars Sample Return

The international Mars Sample Return mission will be aimed at gathering and delivering the samples of Mars's surface to the Earth.

Source: NASA website; ESA website; SpaceX website; Media overview

Notes: (1) Tera-hertz Explorer; (2) Preliminary year of launch; (3) Italian Space Agency; (4) Japan

Aerospace Exploration Agency



The Clipper mission aims to define if Europa has conditions suitable for life, especially a hidden saltwater ocean

Key reasons to explore Europa



A liquid salty ocean is predicted to lie beneath Europa's surface



Atomic particles¹ produce compounds that could be used for living



Jupiter's gravity creates tides on Europa that produce heat and energy to sustain life

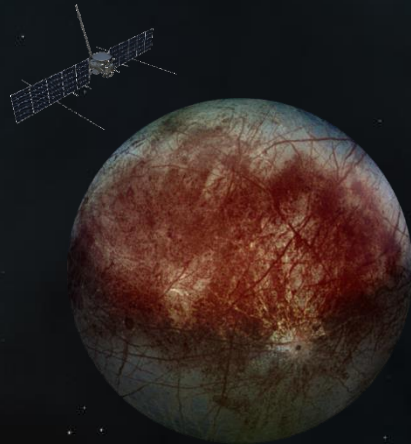
Europa Clipper mission



Date: October 2024

Launch: Falcon Heavy rocket²

Weight: 6.000 kilogrammes at launch³



The key objective of the Europa Clipper mission is to understand:



Ice shell and subsurface water – ocean properties and the nature of the surface-ice-ocean exchange



Habitability of Europa's ocean through composition and chemistry



Formation of surface features, including sites of recent geological activity and high science interest

Key groups of instruments:



Cameras and spectrometers for high-resolution images of the surface and atmosphere



Thermal camera to pinpoint warmer ice and reveal eruptions of water



Ice-penetrating radar, magnetometer, and plasma sensors to investigate the ocean



Dust analyser and mass spectrometer to study the chemistry of particles in space

Source: Nature – NASA's Europa Clipper: A Mission to a Potentially Habitable Ocean World – [2020]; NASA website

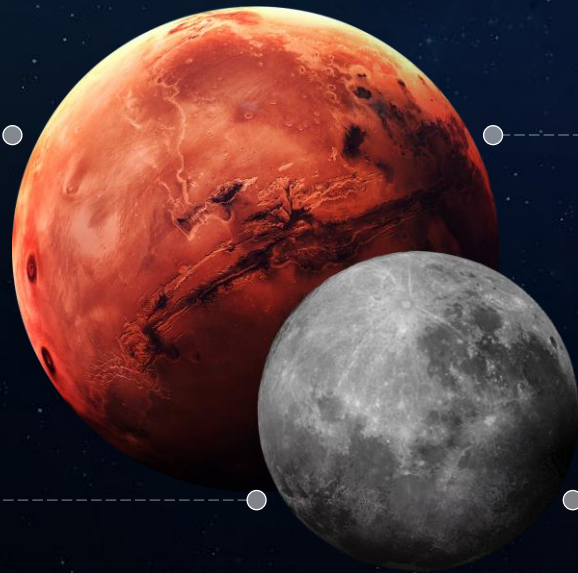
34 Notes: (1) Carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus, etc.; (2) Launch services amount to ~158 Mn Euro; (3) Around 65% of mass is fuel

A futuristic space-themed background featuring a large Earth in the center, a smaller Moon to its right, and several blue orbital paths or trajectories. A bright blue star or light source is visible in the upper right. The bottom of the image shows the curved horizon of Earth with a blue atmospheric glow. On the left side, there are white vertical bars and a circular graphic containing a water drop icon.

SPACE WATER AS A BOOST FOR LONG-DISTANCE MISSIONS



Space water will boost space development and tourism, as it might be used for fuel production and for life support



Lowering costs of rocket propellant production
The outer space refuelling with LH₂ produced from the water in space will substantially reduce the rocket launch costs and increase the distance of the space missions.



Fostering space agriculture development
Extracting water from Mars and the Moon might be more cost-efficient than delivering it from the Earth, which will also be crucial for the colonisation of other planets. It will boost the development of space agriculture and farming.



Decreasing a radiation effect during space travel
Current countermeasures against space radiation are expensive and not fully secure. Usage of hydrogen-rich plastic for spacecraft and liquid hydrogen & water might minimise the effects of space radiation.



Lowering costs of life support systems in space
Usage of space water will be beneficial for life support during space missions, providing astronauts with the necessary amount of water for drinking and hygiene. It will also boost space tourism development and colonisation.



Using water in outer space as a resource for LH₂ might unlock opportunities for long-distance missions

Water from Earth

Limitations of rocket propellant usage and production

High cost of the launch due to transportation requirements of LH₂

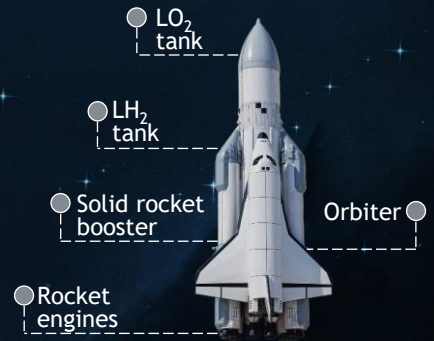


Requirement of increased safety measures due to high flammability of LH₂

Short distance for the space travel due to specific characteristics¹ of LH₂

Higher atmospheric pollution during non-renewable LH₂ production

LH₂ as a space rocket fuel



BLUE ORIGIN
SPACEX
SKYRE



In 2019, NASA awarded 15,5 Mn Euro to four companies to study and produce technologies to create fuel on the Moon and Mars

Water from space

Advantages of space water usage

Longer distance missions as LH₂ will be refilled in outer space



Lower pollutions as part of hydrogen will be produced in outer space



After landing, spacecraft will be refuelled using local resources – water and CO₂

- ▶ High rocket propellant consumption during the rocket take-off is caused by the high gravity of the Earth. The outer space refuelling with LH₂ produced from the water in space will substantially reduce the rocket launch costs and increase the distance of the missions
- ▶ Usage of space water might increase LH₂ competitiveness in the aerospace industry, as it will be impossible to use other rocket propellants, such as methane and kerosene, for refuelling in space

Source: NASA website; Media overview



Oxygen generation and water purification of the space water might increase crew size and space travel distance

Water from Earth

Limitations of life support systems in space

Limited oxygen capacity limits space travel with a larger crew



High cost of transportation leads to limited water resources on the spacecraft

Lack of hygiene activities on the spacecraft limits space tourism

High operational costs of life support systems due to limited water resources

Estimated costs for a private astronaut flight on ISS^{1,2}

Per person, per day



1.690 Euro Food & Beverages³



1.270 Euro Crew provision⁴



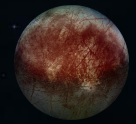
138.670 Euro Upmass / disposal



2,3 K Euro cost for sending a 1 litre bottle with SpaceX Falcon 9



1,5 thousand litres is carried by one supply trip to fill reserves of the ISS



Water from space

Advantages of space water usage

Longer distance space missions as O₂ could be produced from the water in space



More realistic plans for colonisation due to larger purified water and O₂ resources

Growth of space tourism due to development of orbital recreational centres



Extra cargo could be carried out from the Earth instead of the water and oxygen supplies

- ▶ In order to make water potable, the crew has to conduct a multi-level purification process that makes the life support process during space travel extremely expensive. Usage of space water might make space travel on longer distances more cost-effective
- ▶ Usage of space water will boost the development of space tourism, as water purification will become more affordable. Some companies plan to start commercial space hotels construction, e.g. Voyager Station⁵

Source: NASA – Commercial and Marketing Pricing Policy – [2021]; NASA website; Media overview

Notes: (1) International Space Station; (2) As of April 2021; (3) Upmass and trash disposal not included; (4) Clothing, hygiene products, office supplies, sleeping bags, and other crew supplies; (5) Orbital Assemble Corporation conceptual project



Using water from space might potentially lower costs for delivering water from the Earth and boost space agriculture

Water from Earth

Limitations of space agriculture & farming

Microgravity is a challenge for growing plants in space due to the problematic water delivery

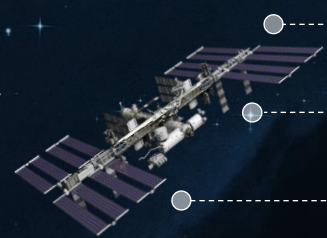


High Solar radiation might adversely affect plants' growth and reproduction

High costs for water delivery from the Earth limit development space agriculture projects

Limited resources in space require the usage of highly efficient facilities

NASA is currently developing space agriculture & farming projects on ISS:



Veggie is a low-power space garden that allows to grow fresh food on space stations

Advanced Plant Habitat is an automated facility designed to grow different types of plants

Biological Research in Canisters is a unit used to study the space impact on small organisms

Water from space

Advantages of space water usage

Cost reduction for life support as the supply of food to space stations is long and expensive



Growth of space tourism due to the development of space agriculture & farming

Obtaining water directly from space will boost the terraforming of Solar system objects

More realistic plans for colonisation due to the possibility to grow plants on the Moon and Mars

- ▶ Nowadays, astronauts get regular shipments of freeze-dried and pre-packaged meals to fulfil their dietary needs, yet NASA as well as other space organisations and companies plan to provide astronauts with nutrients by growing fruits and vegetables on terraformed planets
- ▶ Usage of space water will boost space farming that will lower the costs of space hospitality and facilitate long-term missions, since there will be less need in food supply from the Earth



Using space water as the radiation shield might allow to pursue long-haul missions and conduct deeper research

Water from Earth

Limitations of space radiation shields

Very high cost of a water radiation shield due to the relatively high mass of water

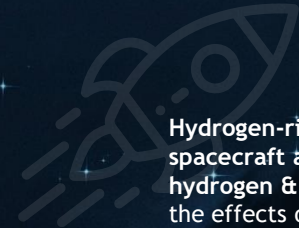


Shorter distance of space travel due to the high radiation exposure of the astronauts

Extra expenses on medical & dietary supplements to mitigate radiation exposure

Limited space tourism opportunities due to high radiation exposure¹

Space water as a radiation countermeasure



Annual radiation of the Mars mission 500-1.000 mSv^{2,3}

Hydrogen-rich plastic for spacecraft and liquid hydrogen & water minimise the effects of space radiation

A water-filled garment might be used during interplanetary missions

Water from space

Advantages of space water usage

Reduced launch cost, as the radiation shield deployment will be conducted on the orbit



Potential for the development of permanent colonies due to water radiation shield deployment

Space missions for longer distances will become possible due to reduced radiation exposure

Possibility for carrying extra cargo, as the water shield will be deployed on the orbit

- ▶ Hydrogen-rich materials are good at shielding solar flares and space radiation. Usage of space water will leverage effective shielding and cost-efficient countermeasures, as the water will be pumped on the Moon or Mars, making the spacecraft launch cheaper
- ▶ Space radiation is considered as one of the limitation factors for long-distance manned space missions. Current countermeasures are expensive and do not fully secure astronauts from space radiation

Source: ESA – The Radiation Showstopper for Mars Exploration – [2019]; National Library of Medicine website; NASA website; Media overview
Notes: (1) Current shields block only 30-35% of radiation; (2) Millisievert; (3) Estimated annual radiation humans receive on the Earth is 2,4 mSv, and in interplanetary mission – 400-900 mSv



Usage of space water will accelerate space exploration and give a start to the active mining of rare space resources

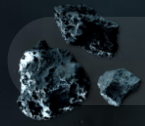
Short term: 10 years

Medium term: 15-20 years

Long term: >20 years



MOON



ASTEROIDS



MARS



Water



Raw regolith



Metals



Platinum group metals

Enabled applications



Rocket fuelling



Life support



Infrastructure



Equipment



Bringing resources back to the Earth

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nicolai.kiskalt@bdo.de

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