here's some of the stories trending this week at NASA NASA held a news conference February 22nd at the agency's headquarters to discuss the finding by the agency Spitzer Space Telescope of seven earth sized planets around a tiny relatively nearby ultra-cool dwarf star three of the planets in the system known as campus one are in the habitable zone the region around the star in which liquid water is most likely to thrive on a rocky planet this is the first time so many planets have been found in a single star's habitable zone outside our solar
system and is the best target yet for
studying the atmospheres of potentially
habitable earth-sized worlds the
February 19th launch of a SpaceX Dragon
cargo spacecraft to the International
Space Station was the first mission from
historic launch pad 39a at NASA's
Kennedy Space Center in Florida since
the last space shuttle mission in July
it also was the first commercial
launch from Kennedy highlighting the
center's transition to a multi-user
spaceport supporting government and
commercial aerospace activities the
dragon arrived at the station on

February 23rd loaded with almost 5500 pounds of experiments hardware and

supplies the station crew received

another load of supplies on February 24th with the arrival of an unpiloted

Russian progress cargo spacecraft which launched two days earlier from

Kazakhstan with almost three tons of food fuel and supplies it was the first launch of a progress since a launch

failure last December engineers conducted the first rs.25 engine test of 2017 on February 22nd at NASA's Stennis
Space Center in Bay St. Louis

Mississippi four rs. 25 engines together

with a pair of solid rocket boosters

will power the agency’s Space Launch System rocket during launch on missions to deep space the 380 second test enabled engineers to evaluate the development engines performance under various operating conditions required for an SLS

On February 22nd integrated structural testing began at Marshall Space Flight Center with test articles of the space launch systems launch vehicles phase adapter Orion stage adapter and interim
cryogenic propulsion stage stacked in a test stand the hardware is undergoing testing to ensure it can handle the stresses of the launch the series of tests is expected to continue through early men On February 20th NASA's Glenn Research Center teams with the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland Ohio to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the mercury friendship 7 flight that made the first American to orbit Byrd the event also highlighted the work of NASA's hidden figures a group of women
mathematicians who helped make Glenn's and other historic space flights possible as well as the present-day modern figures enabling current and future NASA missions and that's what's up this week @nasa for more on these and other stories follow us on social media and visit www.nasa.gov/twan