

*MX News*

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● **SPACE-INSPIRED**

# **NASA's gadget missions**

Olympic-calibre swimsuits, flexible sunglasses rims and ceramic braces are among hundreds of products that originated in space, says NASA.

Speedo turned to NASA experts on friction and drag for a faster suit, space-age alloys led to performance-enhancing

golf clubs and athletic shoes come from spacesuits.

And the next mission for NASA is a lightweight, fibrous material that is five times stronger than steel - and was originally made for the Viking space vehicle parachute - to be integrated in radial car tyres.

*11 April 2011 Sam Palazzo*