



1
00:00:00,760 --> 00:00:05,090

“Here’s some of the stories trending This Week at NASA!”

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00:00:05,090 --> 00:00:10,640

During meetings and public events at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC), Oct. 12-16 in

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00:00:10,640 --> 00:00:15,980

Jerusalem, NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden and several other NASA officials highlighted

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00:00:15,980 --> 00:00:21,360

the agency’s recently released plan to send astronauts to Mars in the 2030’s.

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00:00:21,360 --> 00:00:25,980

They also emphasized the need for international partnerships and cooperation to make a mission

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00:00:25,980 --> 00:00:31,920

of this magnitude a reality, the importance of harnessing enthusiasm for space exploration

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00:00:31,920 --> 00:00:35,989

and the need to encourage young people to develop the skills we’ll need for the Journey

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00:00:35,989 --> 00:00:38,570

to Mars.

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00:00:38,570 --> 00:00:43,170

Oct. 16 was a record-breaking day in space for International Space Station Commander

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00:00:43,170 --> 00:00:44,539

Scott Kelly.

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00:00:44,539 --> 00:00:50,690

It gave him 383 total days in space -- the most cumulative days in space by a U.S. astronaut

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00:00:50,690 --> 00:00:54,440

– a record previously held by NASA’s Mike Fincke.

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00:00:54,440 --> 00:01:00,389

Kelly will break another record on Oct. 29 – his 216th consecutive day in space -- surpassing

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00:01:00,389 --> 00:01:05,170

Michael Lopez-Alegria’s record for the single-longest spaceflight by an American.

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00:01:05,170 --> 00:01:10,420

Kelly’s time in space as part of the one-year mission, helps us better understand the physical

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00:01:10,420 --> 00:01:17,730

and mental effects of long duration spaceflight, which is critical to NASA’s journey to Mars.

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00:01:17,730 --> 00:01:24,370

During an Oct. 14 flyby, NASA’s Cassini spacecraft passed within 1,142 miles of Saturn’s

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00:01:24,370 --> 00:01:30,150

moon Enceladus to capture the first close-up look at the plumes of icy spray situated in

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00:01:30,150 --> 00:01:32,360

the moon’s North Polar Region.

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00:01:32,360 --> 00:01:37,840

This is a prelude to an even closer flyby on Oct. 28 when Cassini will get within 30

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00:01:37,840 --> 00:01:42,390

miles of the moon’s southern polar region

for the most accurate measurements yet of

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00:01:42,390 --> 00:01:44,420

the plumes' composition.

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00:01:44,420 --> 00:01:50,520

Dec. 3 is the targeted launch date for the fourth commercial resupply services mission

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00:01:50,520 --> 00:01:55,710

of Orbital ATK's Cygnus spacecraft to the International Space Station.

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00:01:55,710 --> 00:02:00,800

This will be the first flight of the company's enhanced Cygnus advanced maneuvering spacecraft,

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00:02:00,800 --> 00:02:04,530

which can deliver more than 7,700 pounds of cargo.

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00:02:04,530 --> 00:02:08,799

The supply spacecraft is scheduled to lift off aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas

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00:02:08,799 --> 00:02:16,310

V rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida at about 6 p.m. Eastern Time.

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00:02:16,310 --> 00:02:20,680

NASA has awarded new Venture Class Launch Services (VCLS) contracts to three companies

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00:02:20,680 --> 00:02:28,379

-- Firefly Space Systems, Inc. of Cedar Park, Texas, Rocket Lab USA, Inc. of Los Angeles

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00:02:28,379 --> 00:02:32,349

and Virgin Galactic LLC of Long Beach, California.

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00:02:32,349 --> 00:02:36,870
The launch vehicles developed by these companies will be used to provide access to low-Earth

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00:02:36,870 --> 00:02:42,310
orbit for small satellites, which currently only make it to space as secondary payloads

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00:02:42,310 --> 00:02:44,170
on other missions.

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00:02:44,170 --> 00:02:49,779
Small satellites, including CubeSats, are playing an increasingly larger role in exploration,

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00:02:49,779 --> 00:02:57,099
technology demonstration, scientific research and educational investigations at NASA.

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00:02:57,099 --> 00:03:02,629
Soaring temperatures and heavy traffic did not deter some 45,000 people from attending

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00:03:02,629 --> 00:03:09,150
the recent 2-day Open House event at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

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00:03:09,150 --> 00:03:14,569
JPL manages several NASA missions that have captured the public's attention recently.

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00:03:14,569 --> 00:03:19,980
These include the Mars Science Laboratory's Curiosity rover, Dawn, the first spacecraft

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00:03:19,980 --> 00:03:25,290
to visit a dwarf planet, Ceres, and the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which has found key

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00:03:25,290 --> 00:03:30,560

evidence that water does exist on present-day Mars.

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00:03:30,560 --> 00:03:35,689

NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden helped kick-off the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign recently

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00:03:35,689 --> 00:03:37,049

at headquarters.

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00:03:37,049 --> 00:03:42,480

Each year, donations from NASA employees make a positive impact on the lives of others who

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00:03:42,480 --> 00:03:44,059

are less fortunate.

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00:03:44,059 --> 00:03:48,859

There is a wide choice of approved local, national and international charities to which

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00:03:48,859 --> 00:03:51,629

employees around the agency can donate.

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00:03:51,629 --> 00:03:55,279

The campaign ends Dec. 15.

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00:03:55,279 --> 00:03:57,309

And that's what's up this week @NASA ...