

EGU26 media tip sheet: To infinity and beyond: Planetary science

What's happening on Earth facilitates our exploration of other planets. Conversely, what we learn from other planets not only helps us better understand our place in the universe, but also our home. These presentations span our corner of space, from low-Earth orbit to the ice giants of our solar system.

A Unified Mechanism for Equatorial Jets

The gas giants, Jupiter and Saturn, and the ice giants, Uranus and Neptune, exhibit intense, high-speed wind currents in their equatorial atmospheres. These equatorial jets may share an explanation, according to gravity measurements from the Juno spacecraft.

Monday 04 May 09:15–09:25 CEST; Room 0.94/95 [EGU26-19371](#)

[Session PS2.2: Storms, Cores, and Moons: Exploring the Jovian System with the Juno Mission](#) (oral)

Robotic Moon Mission Measures Heat Flow

In March of 2025, a U.S.-based company successfully landed a robotic spacecraft on the Moon. Among deployed payloads was the Lunar Instrumentation for Subsurface Thermal Exploration with Rapidity, or LISTER, which measured temperature and thermal conductivity of the landing site down to 1 meter. Early results suggest heat flow values comparable to that of the Apollo 17 site.

Tuesday 05 May 14:15–14:35 CEST; Room E2 [EGU26-6066](#)

[Session PS1.4: Lunar Science, Exploration & Utilisation](#) (oral)

Are Gaps in Thermal Infrared Orbital Data Coming?

High spatial resolution thermal infrared data collected from satellites orbiting Earth are essential for mapping minerals. By 2030, the U.S. may not have in instrument in space with such capability. Several instruments are planned, including the Surface Biology and Geology (SBG-TIR) mission, a joint endeavor between NASA and Italy's ASI. This work presents an algorithm used to map surface mineralogy and volcanic activity, and considers the uncertain future of the mission due to budgetary reductions.

1. While media briefings and sessions are hosted by the EGU, research presented at the General Assembly is the responsibility of each presenter and does not necessarily reflect the views of the EGU.

2. Please mention the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly when reporting on research presented at the meeting, either at press conferences or scientific sessions.

Wednesday 06 May 10:50–11:10 CEST; Room -2.15 [EGU26-14391](#)

Session GI4.5: [Thermal Infrared \(TIR\) Remote Sensing: Advances, Applications, and Data Integration](#) (oral)

Chang'e 6 Basalt Contains Lunar Mantle Minerals

The South Pole-Aitken basin is the largest impact structure on the moon, and may contain excavated lunar mantle materials. Samples from this region returned by the Chang'e 6 mission contain lunar mantle olivine and orthopyroxene hosted in a 4.1 billion year old basalt. This work suggests that the lunar mantle was metasomatized by potassium, rare earth elements, and phosphorous (KREEP) melt, implying KREEP was distributed globally.

Wednesday 06 May 17:05–17:15 CEST; Room 0.94/95 [EGU26-8416](#)

Session PS1.6: [Scientific discoveries of China's Lunar and Deep Space exploration program: Chang'e missions to the Moon, Tianwen-1 to Mars, and beyond](#) (oral)

South Pole-Aitken Basin and the Early Evolution of the Moon

A geophysical, remote sensing, and geomorphic investigation of the Moon's oldest and largest known impact basin shows how it provides important insight on the interior structure, differentiation and early evolution of the Moon. This type of work will guide future missions exploring the lunar far side.

Thursday 07 May 17:10–17:20 CEST; Room 0.16 [EGU26-16091](#)

Session PS7.2: [Decoding the Formation and Evolution of Planetary Bodies through Surface and Interior Characterization](#) (oral)

Early Atmospheres and Habitability of Venus, Earth and Mars

The early atmospheres of Venus, Earth and Mars were shaped by the Sun's heightened activity during its first billion years of existence. This work considers the atmospheric compositions needed for the three planets to host stable atmospheres. The team also investigates prebiotic potential and early habitability of the three planets.

Friday 08 May 10:45–12:30 CEST; Hall X4, X4.83 [EGU26-19506](#)

Session PS1.2: [Venus: models, observations, \(ancient\) Earth- and exoplanet analogue](#) (poster)

1. While media briefings and sessions are hosted by the EGU, research presented at the General Assembly is the responsibility of each presenter and does not necessarily reflect the views of the EGU.

2. Please mention the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly when reporting on research presented at the meeting, either at press conferences or scientific sessions.



**European Geosciences Union
Press Centre 2026**

03 – 08 May 2026 | Vienna & Online

Obstructions in Low-Earth Orbit Restrict Access to Space

Low-Earth orbit is rapidly filling with satellites and other space debris, which affects radio astronomy, nighttime ground-based astronomy, space weather remote sensing, space physics, solar observing, and access to space itself. This work suggests that space organizations step in to encourage regulations in the space industry and address licensing and launch practices that may be inadequate.

Friday 08 May 14:00–15:45 CEST; Hall X5, X5.65 [EGU26-8240](#)

[Session AS3.37: Atmospheric impacts of spacecraft launches and re-entries: knowns, unknowns, and research priorities \(poster\)](#)

- 1. While media briefings and sessions are hosted by the EGU, research presented at the General Assembly is the responsibility of each presenter and does not necessarily reflect the views of the EGU.*
- 2. Please mention the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly when reporting on research presented at the meeting, either at press conferences or scientific sessions.*