

BERTHOLLET'S PRESS REVIEW

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

November 24, 2023

CNN News

'First light': NASA receives laser-beamed message from 10 million miles away

Psyche, a NASA spacecraft launched in October is on its way to a metal asteroid between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. It is the most distant demonstration of laser communications. It is a scientific achievement since the laser was encoded with data travelling 16 million kilometers, which requires incredibly precise aiming and pointing. This way of communicating with laser is 10 to 100 time faster than traditional radio wave systems. If results about this laser are successful for next years, they will be use for the Martian missions.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/11/24/world/nasa-psyche-dsoc-first-light-scni/index.html>

POLITICS

November 24, 2023

Europe's Ariane 6 rocket successfully completes hot-fire test

Europe can breathe a sigh of relief: the Ariane 6 rocket has validated a major test in its final objective, which is to surpass its direct competitor SpaceX from an efficiency/price point of view. Indeed, the rocket's engine, the Vulcan 2.1, managed to run for 7 minutes, which is the time it takes for the rocket to reach space.

But in reality, the objective is quite different: to show Russia, the country at war with Ukraine that has deprived Europe of its aerospace aid, that the oldest continent does not need help and is capable of regaining global leadership in this field.

<https://phys.org/news/2023-11-europe-ariane-rocket-successfully-hot-fire.html>

ART AND CULTURE

November 24, 2023

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On a cultural level, the success of NASA's Psyche mission with laser communication resonates beyond the scientific and economic domains to influence our collective imagination and cultural narrative. Psyche represents the first time humans will have a chance to witness this important and successful demonstration of the Deep Space Optical Communications (DSOC) technology aboard a spacecraft that is not an Earth-orbiting mission.

As stunning as the depictions painted by the Hubble Space Telescope, delightful images of successful DSOC demonstrations may provide inspiration to visual artists keen on capturing the essence of this interstellar form of communication. Science fiction writers might well take this advance in technology to make stories about the future of space travel as well.

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