

Space, The Final Frontier

The modern world depends greatly on what happens in space. Telecommunications, weather forecasting, and travel depend on satellites in orbit. There are even astronomy telescopes in space that can look across the universe to the farthest galaxies. But getting this equipment into space is difficult and expensive.

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Many times a year, spacecraft powered by rockets are launched from different locations around the world. Some are unmanned missions, but some are not, simply because some jobs cannot be automated. These manual tasks include repairs to objects already in space, such as the international space station – a multinational project to create a permanent habitable presence in space.

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Such repairs can often require astronauts to go outside the station in spacesuits to conduct a spacewalk, floating in the microgravity of Earth orbit either attached to the station by a wire or unattached using a jetpack. Operating in space is inherently dangerous, with the hazards of solar radiation, vacuum, and even meteorites, and it is becoming more dangerous as more objects are launched and more garbage accumulates in orbit.

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What dangers are there during a spacewalk?

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What is the international space station?

Why do we need satellites?