SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!





QUANTUM GRAVITY

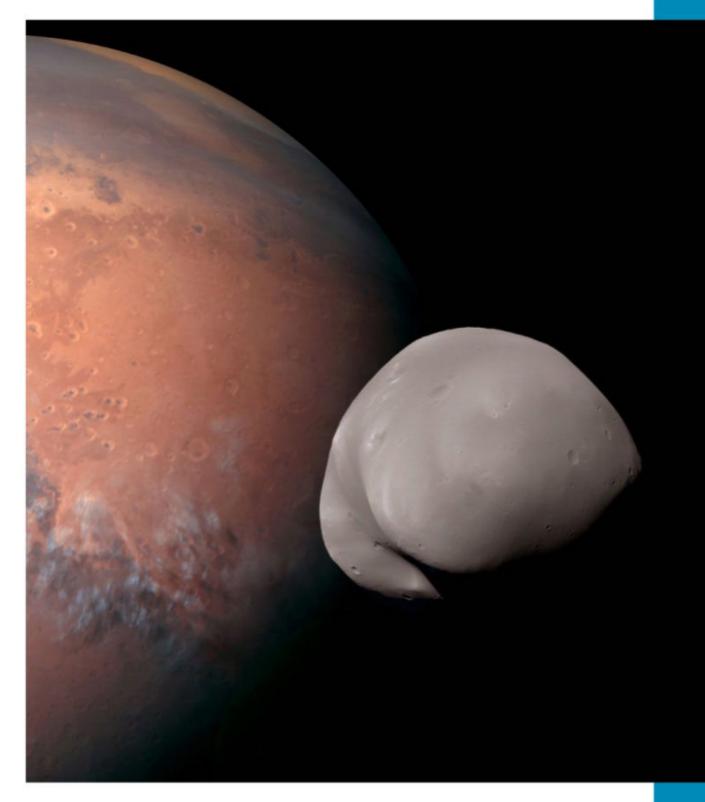
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE UNIVERSE THIS MONTH

SNAPSHOT

HOPE BUZZES DEIMOS

A new look at Mars' smaller moon highlights its mysterious origin.

Mars looms large, but the highlight of this shot is the Red Planet's smallest moon: Deimos, just 7.7 miles (12.4 kilometers) wide. The close-up was taken by the United Arab Emirates' Hope spacecraft, which has been orbiting the Red Planet since 2021. On March 10, Hope made its first of several planned flybys of Deimos, sending back unprecedented photographs of the moon's farside. "This was approximately 100 kilometers [62 miles] up, and I don't believe we will get that close again," Hessa Al Matroushi, the science lead for the Emirates Mars Mission, tells Astronomy. The flyby allowed the probe's two spectrometers to record crucial data about the moon's composition. They suggest Deimos is made of material similar to Mars itself and not the carbon-rich rock that would be expected if Deimos was a captured asteroid, as scientists once suspected. That supports theories that both Deimos and Phobos — Mars' other moon formed in orbit when a large object, perhaps a dwarf planet, struck Mars in the distant past. - TOM METCALFE





HOT BYTES



Double Quasar
The Hubble Space
Telescope found
that J0749+2255 is a
rare binary quasar.
It hosts two active
supermassive black
holes at the centers
of merging galaxies,
shown in this
illustration.



SALT TRAIL

Data from the NASA/ESA

Solar and Heliospheric

Observatory show that
the asteroid Phaethon's
cometlike tail is not
dust, as previously
thought, but glowing
sodium atoms.



LOST LANDER
The HAKUTO-R
Mission 1 robotic lander,
developed by Tokyobased startup ispace,
crashed on the Moon's
surface April 25 in a bid
to make the first private
soft lunar landing. A
2019 attempt by an
Israeli firm also failed.