

Astronomy[®]

THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING ASTRONOMY MAGAZINE /// MARCH 2026

STAR-STRUCK TWICE

The tale of Meteor Crater and its long-lost sibling



PLUS:

- HOW TO RUN THE MESSIER MARATHON
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SNAPSHOT

A DUSTY SCENE

Infrared view shows warm young suns shining through cold dust and gas.

The European Space Agency's (ESA) Euclid telescope launched in 2023 to study the composition and structure of our universe. Although largely tasked with mapping distant galaxies, Euclid has also returned stunningly detailed views of vistas much closer to home, including this shot of a portion of the dark cloud LDN 1641 in Orion.

Located 1,300 light-years away within the Milky Way, LDN 1641 is a cold, dusty cloud complex perfect for birthing new stars. Viewed in infrared light, as captured by Euclid's Near-Infrared Spectrometer and Photometer, young stars appear scattered throughout the orangey-brown cloud. In visible light, the dust would block these stars, but infrared instruments pick up on their heat, rendering them visible through the cooler dust of the cloud. Outflows (magenta) emanate from several of the stars — a common occurrence in young stellar objects. The upper left region of the image has less dust, revealing background stars and galaxies far beyond LDN 1641 in the foreground. —ALISON KLESMAN

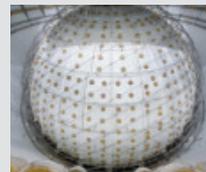


HOT BYTES



SPORES SCORE BIG

Moss spores can still reproduce after spending 283 days in space outside the ISS in the station's exposure-testing facility, scientists say. This marks the resilient plant as a potential key to creating self-sustaining ecosystems on other worlds.



JUNO DELIVERS

The Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) in Jiangmen, China, delivered its first results Nov. 19. It is now the world's most advanced neutrino detector in operation.



STELLAR EXPLOSION

A team using ESA's XMM-Newton space observatory and the LOFAR radio telescope spotted a coronal mass ejection from a star other than our Sun for the first time, opening a new chapter in the study of space weather.