

# The Weekly Dome Report

Week of March 22, 2021 ..... Volume 35 ..... Space News and Stuff

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, Mar. 22**

6pm.....Mythology Monday  
-Neptune

**Thursday, Mar. 25**

6pm.....Tech Talk Thursday  
-Cyborgs in Film

**Friday, Mar. 26**

6pm.....Final Frontier Friday  
-Dangers in Space

**Saturday, Mar. 27**

2pm.....Stellar Saturday  
-Moons of Jupiter

7pm.....Stellar Saturday  
-Mystery Show

## Space Spring Cleaning

By Sam Thomas



*The servicer and client during testing prior to Monday launch*

A brand new science experiment named Elsa-D (End-of-Life Service) and developed by Astroscale was recently launched into space via a Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Elsa-D is undertaking trials to test its capabilities of capturing a “client” package. This client package will be the mouse in the game of cat and mouse, and Elsa-D will try to capture the client under increasingly complex conditions. Elsa-D will use magnets to capture the client, and eventually after enough trials have been completed the duo will be commanded to reenter the atmosphere to then burn up.

The purpose of this is to test the capabilities of Elsa-D of capturing and eliminating space debris. There is roughly 9000 tonnes of space debris which can cause problems for satellites and future space launches. This space junk consists of various things, such as large rocket segments, to smaller things such as metal shards that result from collisions in space. Astroscale hopes to capitalize on the problem, offering cleanup services to the various agencies on Earth that launch missions into space. After decades of launches into space, the junk has built up and so efforts to clean up that space such as this will be increasingly common.

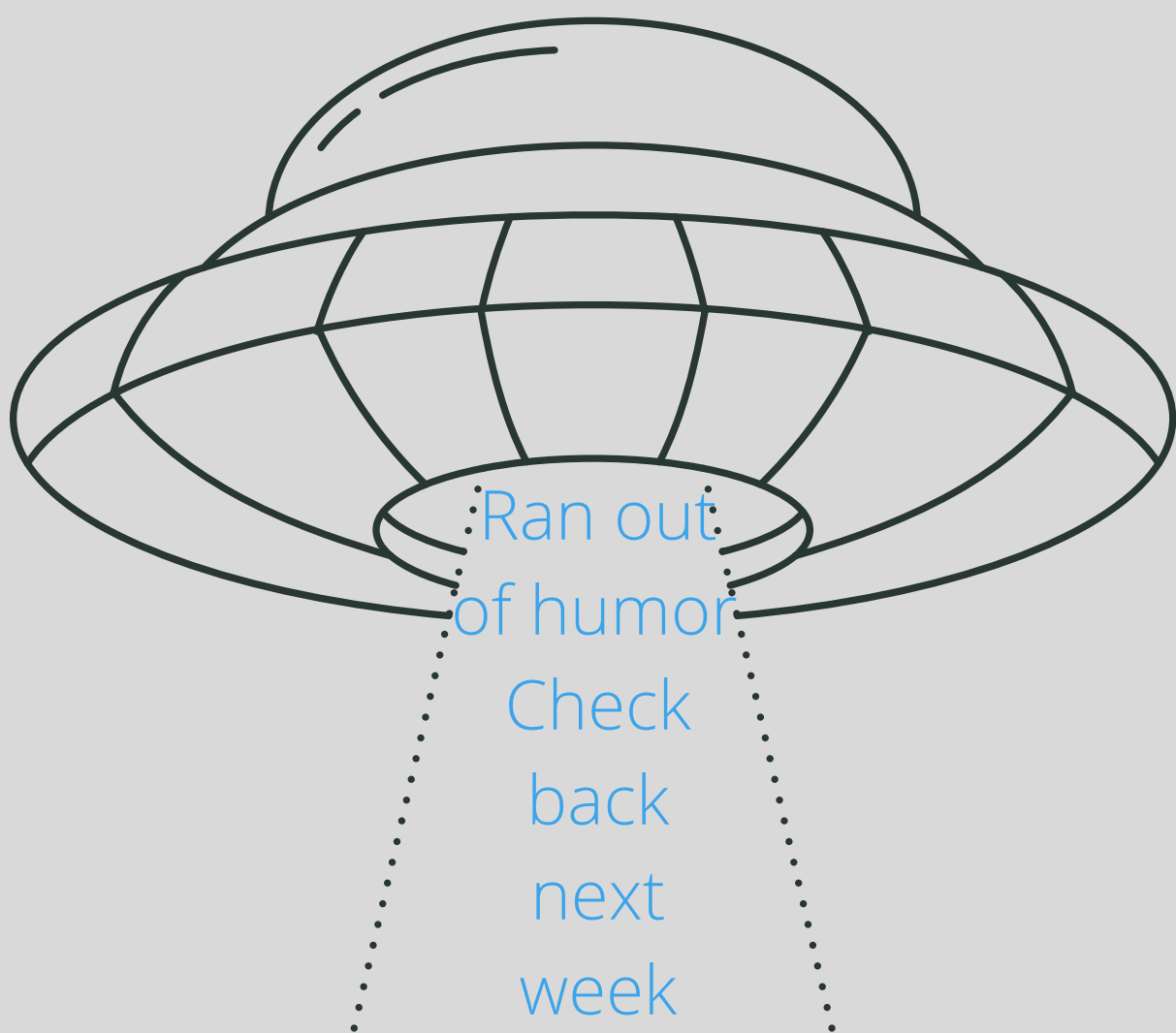
Original Story: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56482726>

## WEIRD SPACEFACT

STARS DON'T TWINKLE  
UNTIL THEIR LIGHT PASSES  
THROUGH THE EARTH'S  
ATMOSPHERE

## THE ASTUTE ASTRONAUT

BY JARED YOUNG



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[planetarium.truman.edu](http://planetarium.truman.edu)

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