

# Science Focus

How an illegal drug  
**COULD TREAT DEPRESSION**

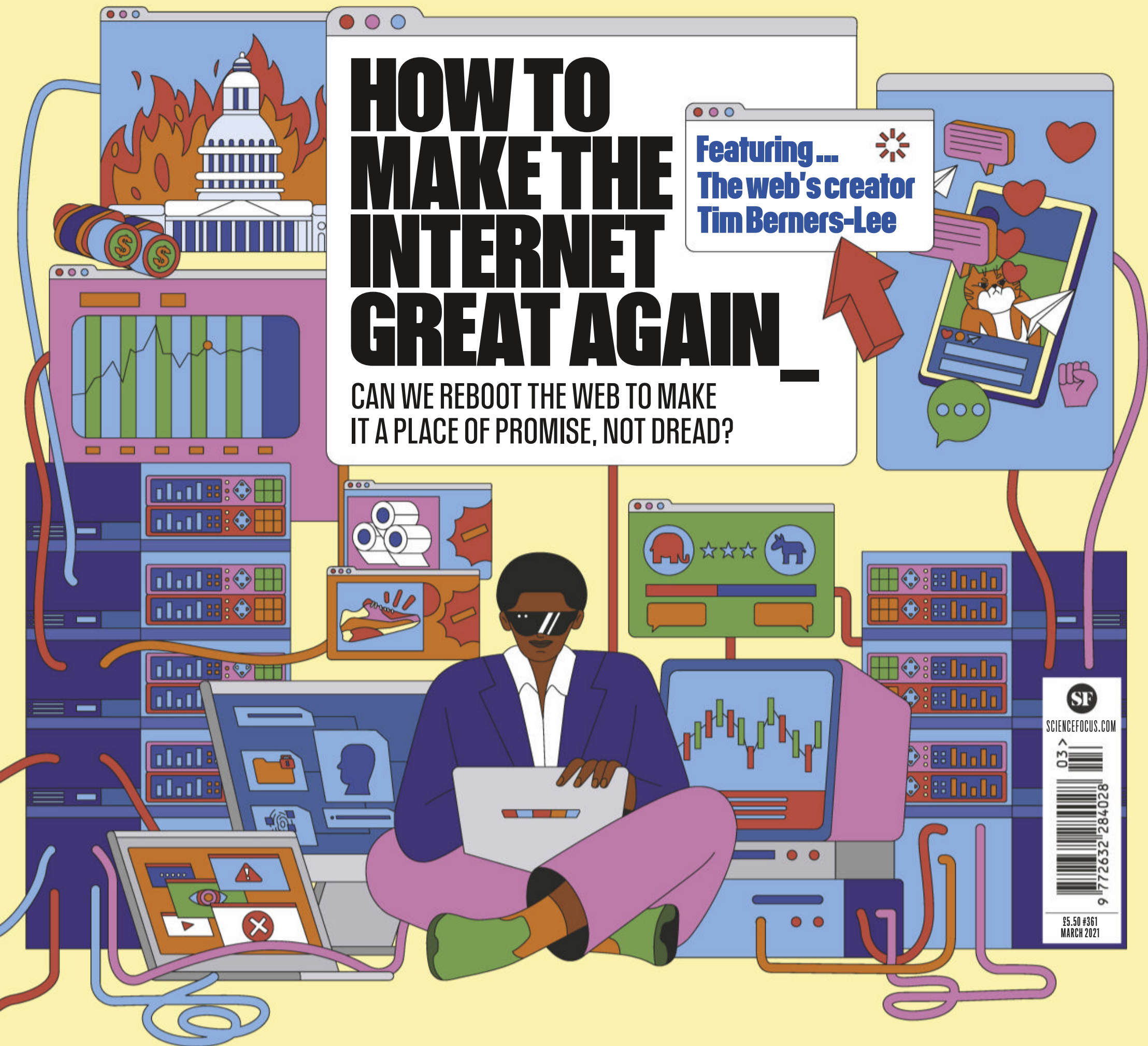
The Harvard astronomer  
**HUNTING FOR ALIEN TECHNOLOGY**

Vaccination versus  
**THE COVID-19 VARIANTS**

## HOW TO MAKE THE INTERNET GREAT AGAIN

CAN WE REBOOT THE WEB TO MAKE IT A PLACE OF PROMISE, NOT DREAD?

Featuring...  
The web's creator  
**Tim Berners-Lee**



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**History**

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Can a pill help people lose weight? | The women we don't talk about | Are rats claiming our empty cities?



## EYE OPENER

# In full bloom

FRIEDRICHSHAFEN,  
GERMANY

This is Europe's first five-metre-diameter deployable reflector for radar satellites. It's been designed to be able to send and receive higher resolution signals for better observations of Earth. Built by Airbus, it's currently scheduled for launch in 2022.

It's special because it's made from a semi-rigid material. Normally, dishes as big or bigger than this have to be flexible so they can be folded up to fit inside a rocket. It's like putting a ship in a bottle, except the ship is a satellite and the bottle is the rocket carrying it into space. Once the rocket reaches orbit, the satellite is deployed and unfolded, and if all goes according to plan it begins transmitting and receiving signals.

The trouble is, satellite dishes work better if they're rigid. Hence Airbus has developed this one, which is too rigid to fold in the traditional sense but is just flexible enough to close like a flower so it can be stowed for launch.

SANDRA WALTHER/AIRBUS

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