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ROBOT FARMING MACHINES

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ISSUE #390 APRIL 2023
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IN THIS ISSUE

Venus
How scientists discovered an active volcano on another planet

Testosterone
Why the hormone isn't a menopause wonder drug

Physics
Why it's all made up... and that's okay

SPACE

REVEALED: THE SPACESUIT ASTRONAUTS WILL WEAR FOR THE NEXT MOONWALK

NASA has teamed up with private company Axiom Space to design its next-generation suits

When astronauts return to the Moon for the first time in more than 50 years as part of NASA's Artemis missions, this is the spacesuit they will be wearing. Named the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit, or AxEMU, the suit was designed by private company Axiom Space. It was unveiled to the public as part of the Moon 2 Mars Festival at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, on 15 March.

"Our expert team is ready to provide NASA the next-generation spacesuit," said Mark Greeley, the Extravehicular Activity (EVA) program manager at Axiom Space.

"We carefully considered years of lessons learned by NASA and used that experience to build a spacesuit for the Moon and for our future Axiom Space customers."

The prototype suit on show was fitted with a dark cover in order to conceal the top secret elements of its design. But like all previous spacesuits, AxEMU will be white in order to reflect heat to protect astronauts from the high temperatures they will be exposed to on their mission.

Artemis III is scheduled to land near the lunar south pole in 2025, where the next man and first woman will set foot on the Moon.

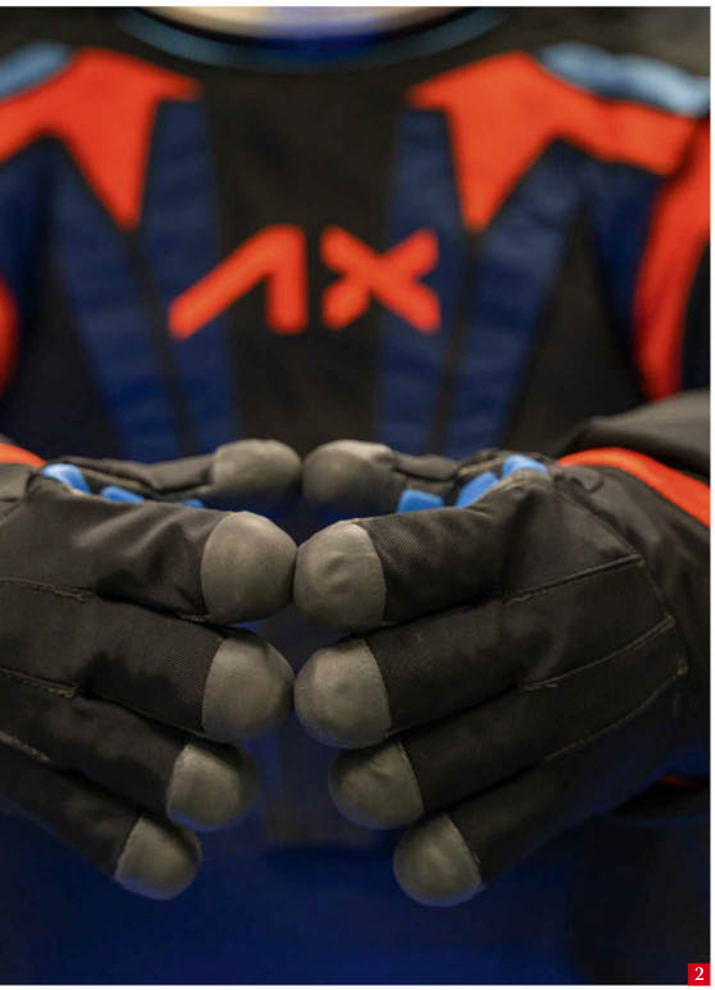
AXIOM SPACE X3, GETTY IMAGES

1. The streamlined spacesuit was put through its paces at the Johnson Space Center by NASA's chief engineer Jim Stein.

2. This close-up shot of the suit's gloves shows how it was designed with maximum manoeuvrability and agility in mind.

3. The suit features a combination of innovative soft and hard joints to give the astronauts a wide range of motion when they are walking on the lunar surface.

4. AxEMU is designed to fit a broad range of different body shapes and sizes. It can be adjusted so that it is comfortable and non-restricting to wear for 90 per cent of the US population.



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