

# New Scientist

WEEKLY 9 September 2023

HOW ANCIENT  
HUMANS NEARLY  
WENT EXTINCT

THE ULTIMATE WAY  
TO HYDRATE

HAVE WE FOUND  
INTERSTELLAR ROCKS  
IN THE OCEAN?

SPECIAL ISSUE

# THE AMAZING THEORY OF (ALMOST) EVERYTHING

The standard model of particle physics has been 50 years in the making. Are we finally about to complete our best description of reality?

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## Mind reading

Brain implant lets people type just by thinking **p10**

## Eczema clue

Condition linked to the diversity of bacteria on skin **p11**

## Earliest shoes

Footprints suggest people wore sandals 100,000 years ago **p14**

## Drone triumph

AI pilot beats human champions in head-to-head races **p16**

## Missing matter

Giant crater found on a distant world beyond Neptune **p18**

## Astronomy

# Dawn of a giant new telescope

This startling image reveals the dome of the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) being built in Chile's Atacama desert, with the sun rising behind it. The ELT will be the world's biggest optical telescope, with operations due to start in 2028 and construction passing the halfway point earlier this year. If you look carefully, you can make out two sunspots on the solar surface, which are actually about the size of planets.

