

New Scientist

WEEKLY 24 February 2024

THE EXPLOSION OF AI DEEPFAKES AND EFFORTS TO STOP THEM

WHY YOU DON'T NEED TO PANIC ABOUT ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS

DID COSMIC DUST DELIVER LIFE'S INGREDIENTS TO EARTH?

SPECIAL ISSUE



The HUMAN BRAIN

How it works, why it fails and the secrets to using it better

PLUS HOW TO BECOME A SUPERCOMMUNICATOR / ORIGINS OF HUMOUR / WHY TIME PASSES QUICKER AS WE AGE

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Peel of approval

Genetically modified bananas get go-ahead for the first time **p9**

Emissions mission

A start-up is making jet fuel with captured carbon dioxide **p12**

Nerve regeneration

Chemical cocktail restores sight in mice with bad vision **p13**

Brain changer

Even tiny doses of LSD affect activity in the brain **p17**

Space ejection

Black holes spew gas so hard they almost stop spinning **p18**



Space

A selfie with the blue planet

Intuitive Machines's robotic Odysseus spacecraft beamed back this selfie with Earth on 16 February, a day after launching on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. As *New Scientist* went to press, Odysseus was due to land near the lunar south pole on 22 February. Its payload of experiments will collect data for NASA's Artemis programme, which includes plans to put a crewed base on the moon.

INTUITIVE MACHINES