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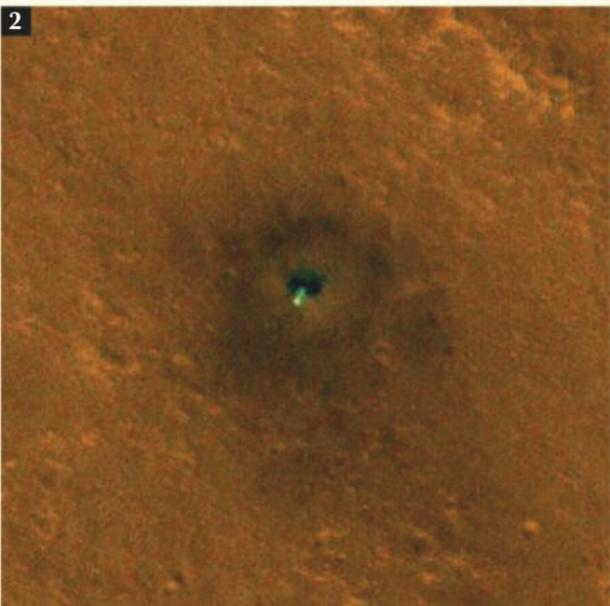
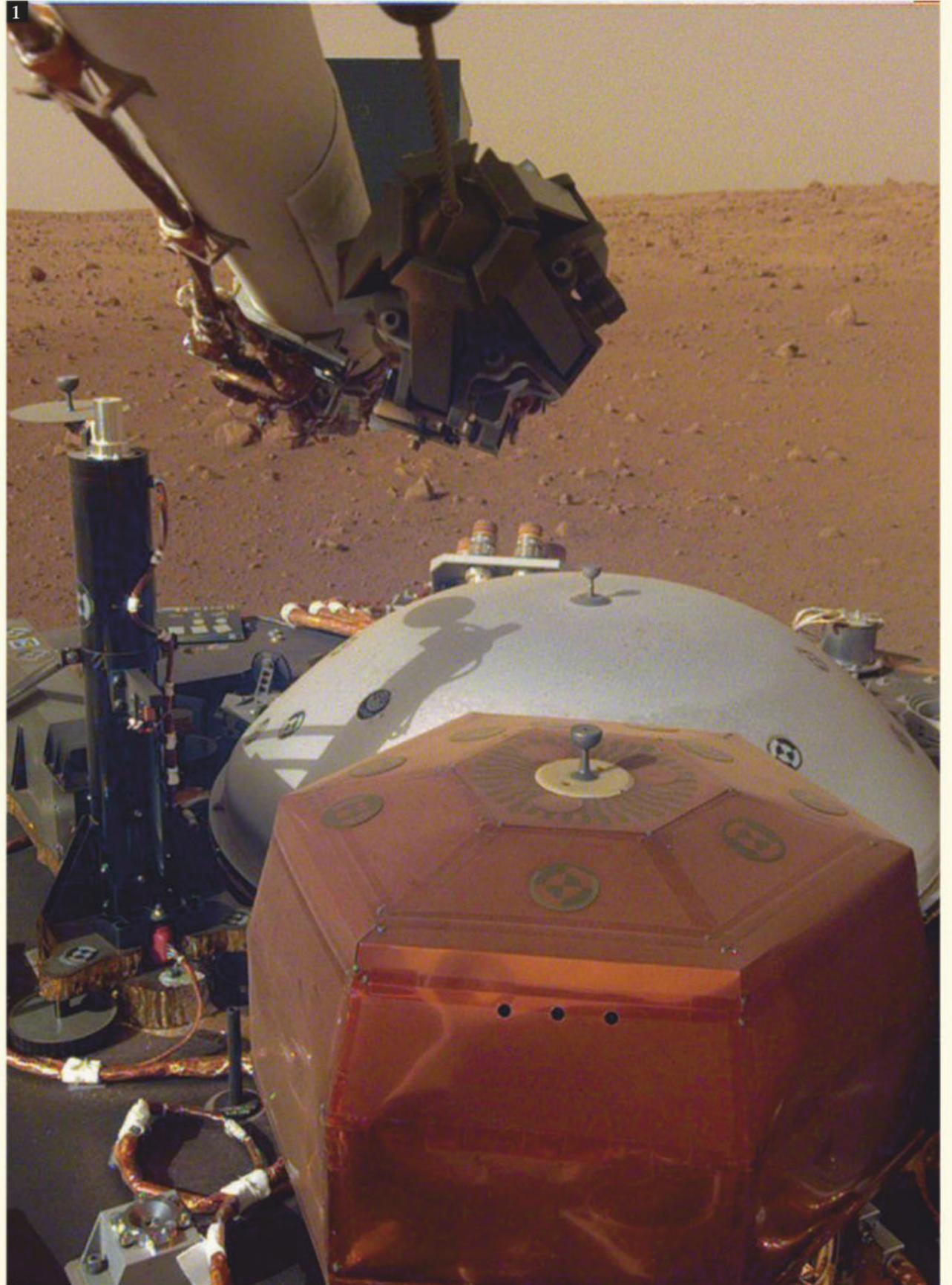
SPACE

NASA'S INSIGHT LANDER DETECTS FIRST 'MARSQUAKE'

On 6 April, NASA's InSight lander detected a faint signal that was thought to have been caused by the movement of a crack deep within the Red Planet, or perhaps by a meteorite impact. It took place on the 128th Martian day of the mission, and was the first seismic signal detected on a planet other than Earth. The signal was detected by SEIS, the lander's seismometer that was designed and built in a collaboration between French and British researchers.

"InSight's first readings carry on the science that began with the Apollo missions," said InSight's principal investigator Bruce Banerdt of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. "We've been collecting background noise up until now, but this first event officially kicks off a new field: Martian seismology."

The lander touched down on the surface of Mars in November and will study the planet's interior structure with the hope of answering key questions about the early formation of rocky planets in the Solar System for the next two years.



1. The polyhedron structure houses SEIS – the seismometer that measures the internal activity of Mars. The dome was placed over SEIS to protect it from the Martian elements.

2. This image of NASA's InSight lander was taken by the HiRISE camera aboard NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter on 4 February.

3. This is NASA InSight's first full selfie taken on Mars on 6 December 2018. It was made by stitching together 11 separate images taken by its Instrument Deployment Camera located on the 'elbow' of its robotic arm.