

BBC 2021 REVIEW **PSYCHEDELICS, MARS, CRISPR AND MORE...**

Science Focus

The truth about
THE NEW 'SUPER COLD'

Inside Elon Musk's
STARBASE: CITY OF THE FUTURE

Closing in on a
VARIANT-PROOF VACCINE



END OF YEAR Q&A

SPECIAL ISSUE

Are spiders getting bigger? Can air travel ever be green?

Is COVID-19 endemic? Can you cook a turkey by dropping it from space?

Is working from home good for the environment? Are Asian wasps invading?

Why do anxious thoughts arrive late at night? Do four-day weeks work?

Is your sourdough bread unique? Does Netflix cost the Earth?

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EYE OPENER

Launch in 3, 2, 1...

FLORIDA, USA

NASA's Moon rocket and spacecraft are nearly ready to launch.

The rocket is the new Space Launch System (SLS), NASA's most powerful launch vehicle, designed to take humans, cargo and robotic equipment to the Moon and beyond.

Atop the SLS sits the Orion spacecraft. Orion was built with deep-space exploration in mind, able to carry four astronauts to distant planets and keep them safe during missions and on re-entry.

Now, just a series of tests and a 'wet dress rehearsal' stands between the craft and the Moon.

The first launch – likely to be in February 2022 – will mark the start of many missions under NASA's Artemis programme, created to take us back to the Moon. In its 'new era of space exploration', NASA plans to set up a base camp on the Moon's surface, as well as build 'Gateway', an outpost in lunar orbit.

Artemis will also act as a stepping stone for our next giant leap – the human exploration of Mars.

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