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Sky at Night

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ANOTHER FINE MESSIER

Detective of the dark Universe gets on the case with the delivery of its first science images

EUCLID, 23 MAY 2024

This shot of Messier 78, a reflection nebula in the constellation of Orion, is one of five new images that were recently sent back by ESA's Euclid space telescope. All the images are part of Euclid's Early Release Observations and come less than a year after the telescope launched.

Incredibly, the Euclid team estimate there are more than 300,000 new objects visible in this image alone, underlining Euclid's great strength: it's capable of imaging wide swathes of the sky in unprecedented detail. It's hoped that Euclid's ability to reveal more detail in seemingly empty regions will help astronomers uncover the influence of dark matter and dark energy on the visible Universe.

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