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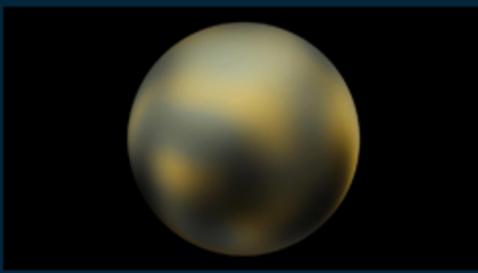


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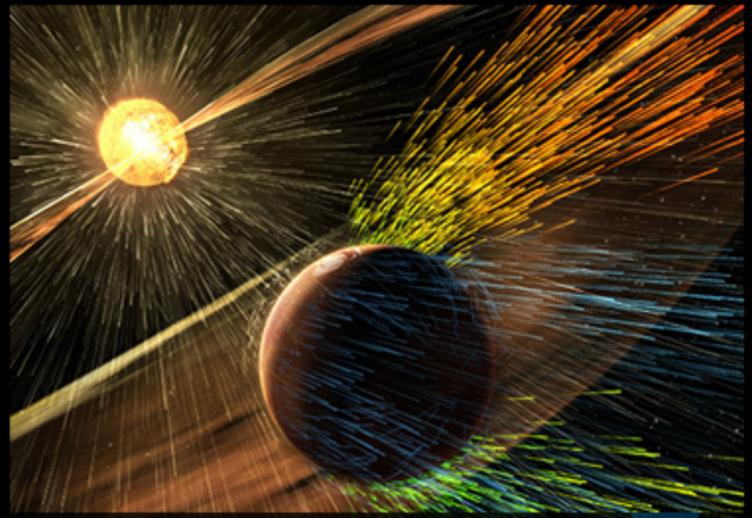
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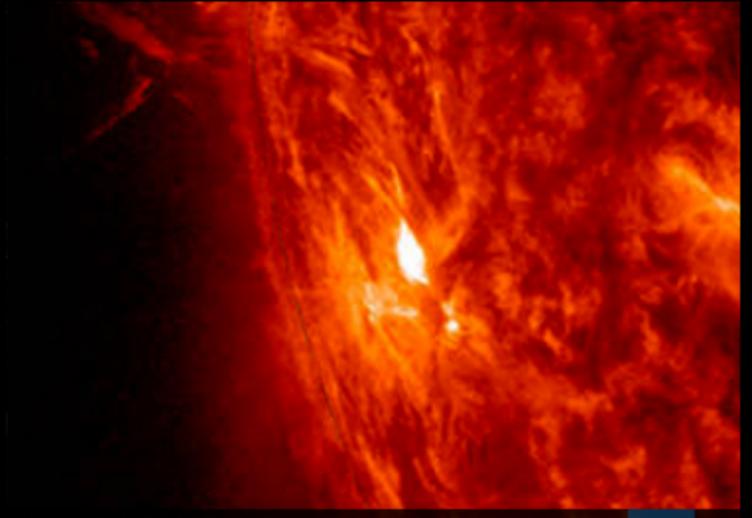
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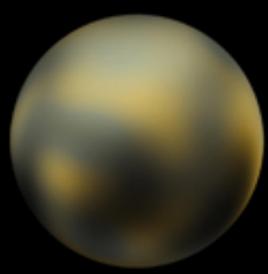
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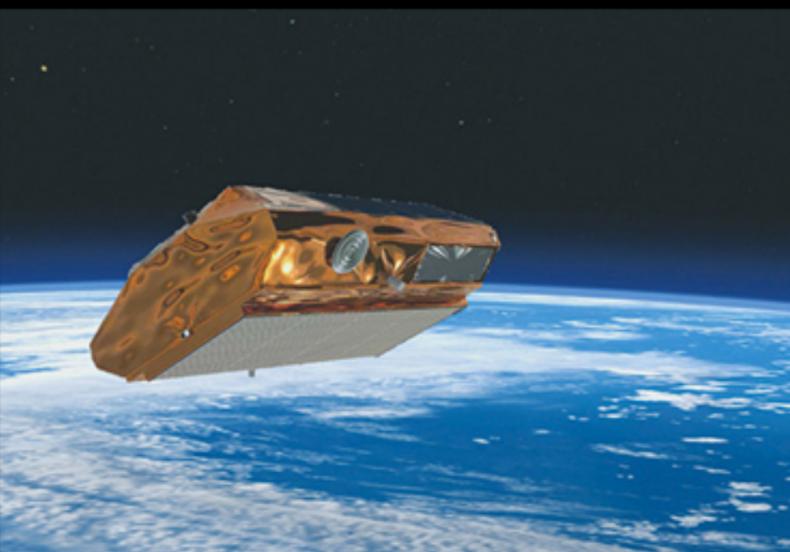
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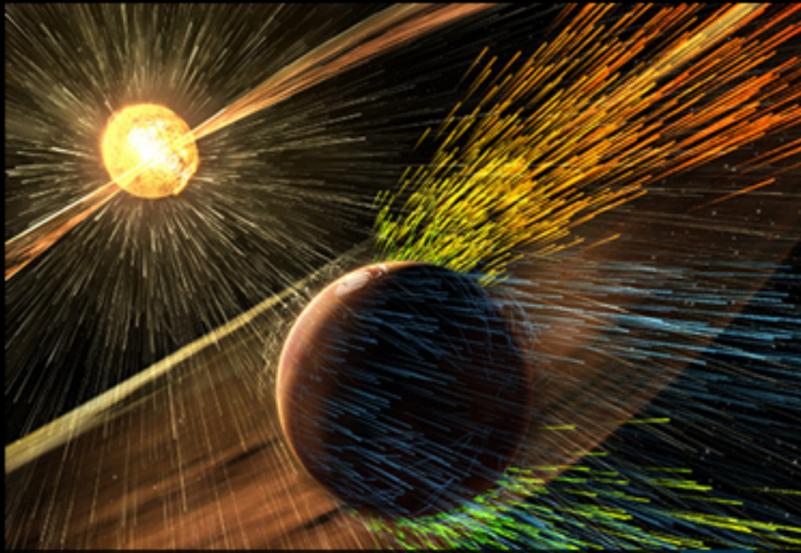
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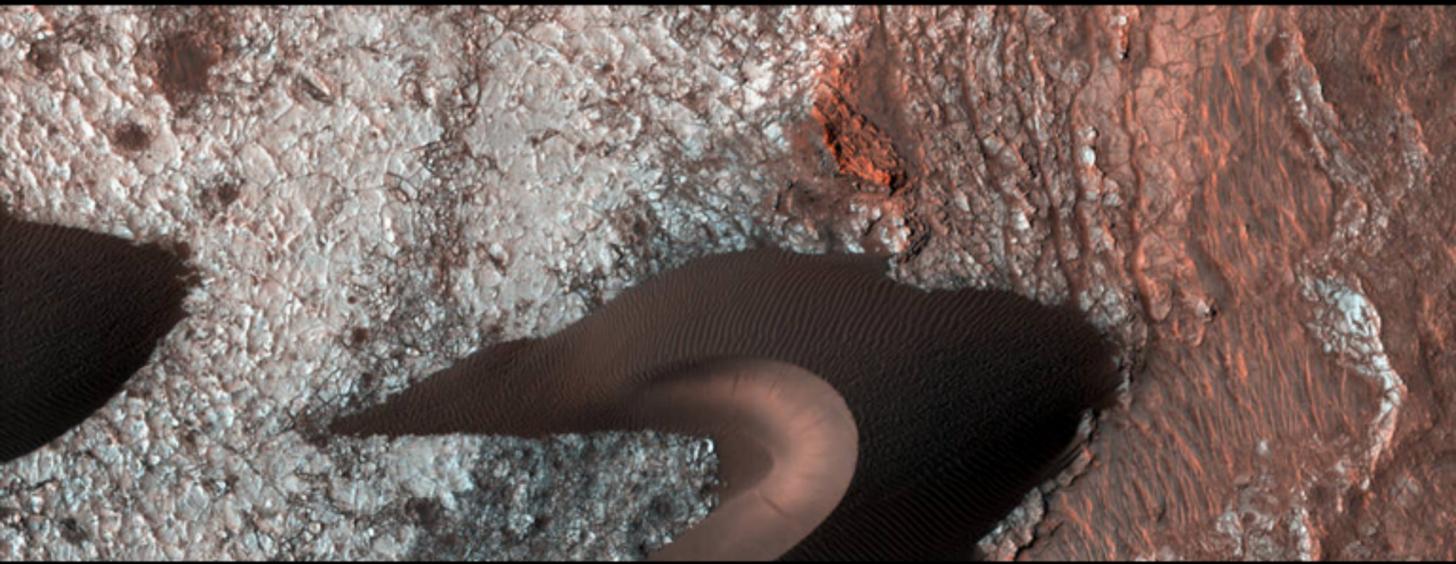


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BY ADAM MARTON / 10/31/2015

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The latest employee lawsuit against rocket maker SpaceX makes clear that the emerging entrepreneurial space industry is not immune to the labor pains that the more traditional companies have dealt with for years.

The lawsuit, filed Oct. 19 by former SpaceX technician Stan Saprito in California's Superior Court for Los Angeles County, alleges that the company violated state law by not properly accounting for overtime and forcing workers to go more than five hours without a 30-minute meal break. The complaint was filed as a class action suit, meaning others are invited to join in.

SpaceX has crossed the threshold from feisty startup to established player, with the obligations that go with it.

Whether or not there is any merit to Mr. Saprito's lawsuit remains to be seen. In a statement, SpaceX denied the claims and said it would refute them in court.

SpaceX is easily the biggest and most recognizable of the new breed of entrepreneurial space companies fueled by Silicon Valley venture capital and the accompanying work ethic. Employees of these startups are expected to work prodigious hours, often for relatively low pay, with the promise of great rewards that are staked to the company's ultimate success.

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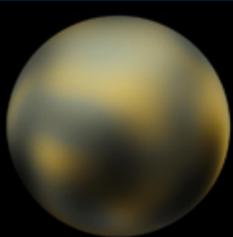


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