



Topics:

- **Laser altimeter BELA ready to explore Mercury's surface**

Launched on Oct. 20, 2018, the joint ESA/JAXA BepiColombo mission has travelled for almost eight years, using a carefully planned but eventful sequence of planetary flybys and solar-electric propulsion to gradually approach its destination, Mercury. The mission is now entering the final stage of its journey to the smallest and innermost planet of our solar system.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-09-laser-altimeter-bela-ready-explore.html>

- **'Born-again' star offers rare chance to watch stellar evolution in real time**

Astronomers have confirmed that one of the fastest-changing stars ever observed has entered a new stage of its evolution, offering a rare opportunity to watch a star's life unfold on human timescales.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-09-born-star-rare-chance-stellar.html>

- **Webb measures extreme gas outflows from distant 'dead' galaxies**

Astronomers using the James Webb Space Telescope have measured the most powerful gas outflow ever recorded from a "dead" galaxy outside our cosmic neighbourhood and found that even outflows this extreme may not be enough to permanently shut down star formation.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-09-webb-extreme-gas-outflows-distant.html>