

Spring 2024



ODYSSSEY

The official newsletter of the Space Science
Environmental & Engineering Foundation

COMING UP IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

The full eclipse;

NEWS FROM THE SSEF for EU, UK and EnviroDC;

TIPS and TOOLS; Helping you become a settlement designer.

STUDENT STORIES: Alfred Williamson- Off to Harvard! & Corinne Barker- From student to staff!

Interview with a volunteer: Gianni Austin- Taking the challenge to Barbados.

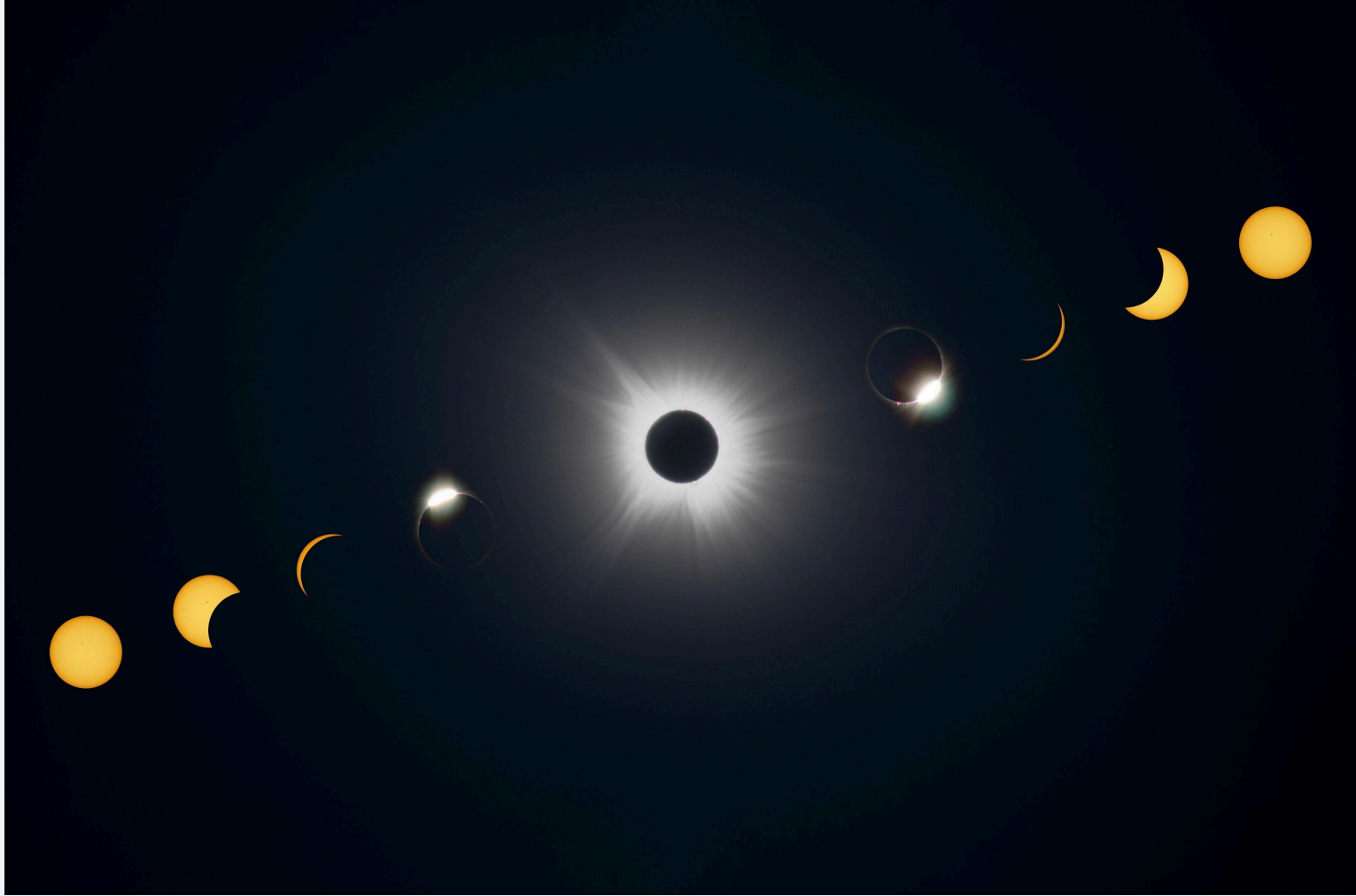
LATEST SPACE NEWS FROM AROUND THE WEB; #space and #enviro on social:

Our wonderful sponsors and supporters, past and present

Upcoming UK Space events- [Click Here](#)

Upcoming UK Eco events- [Click Here](#)

FEATURE



Parts of America went dark for 4 minutes and 28.13 seconds

April the 8th saw the first total eclipse since December 2021. As excitement dies down from the “Great American Eclipse,” eclipse chasers are turning their attention to **Wednesday, August 12, 2026**, when the next total eclipse will be closer to home, being visible from Spain and Northeastern Portugal.

To read the full report from NASA, including the broadcast video taken directly from their telescopes, [CLICK HERE](#)

NEWS FROM THE SSE²F

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING
PART IN NATIONALS 2024!**



WE HOPE YOU
ENJOYED IT AS MUCH
AS WE DID!

WELL DONE TO
THOSE JOINING US
AT THE ISSDC.

FIND OUT MORE



Another successful season for UKSDC and SSEF

We're looking forward to giving a report from the ISSDC in Florida in the next newsletter.

All those who have earned places on the finals teams have been notified and you can see the team list [HERE](#).

The regional events for 2024 are open for registration. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to our dates and registration page.

UKSDC Alumni's innovative lunar landing pad wins Airbus competition.

Liam and Ellie, are awarded first place for their proposal outlining manufacture and assembly of landing pads on the Moon.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full article.

If you want to look into taking part in the next Airbus competition [CLICK HERE](#) to go to their competition website.

AIRBUS

EUSDC FINALS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED



A graphic celebrating the completion of the EUSDC finals. It features a rocket launch on the left, a central image of the Earth, and a QR code on the right. The text 'EUSDC FINALS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED' is at the top. Below it, four categories are listed with green checkmarks: ITSDC, ROSDC, SPSDC, and PTSDC. The EUSDC logo is in the top right, and 'DIGITAL COMPETITIONS' is at the bottom left. A 'FIND OUT MORE' link and QR code are on the right.

EUSDC 2024 finals.

From EU volunteer coordinators: Lorena Terrón and Pablo Asenjo

The 2024 European Space Design Competition (EUSDC) ignited imaginations across Europe this past March, culminating in a weekend of virtual presentations that showcased the incredible talent and dedication of students from Romania, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

For the whole article [CLICK HERE](#)

The EUSDC 2024 regional events are open for registration. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to our dates and registration page.

TOP TIPS:

TOP TIP-

Make a plan

Our top tool of the season is the **UKSDC website**, with competition resources developed by competition veterans to benefit your company. It's full of useful shortcuts and resources to make your life much easier during an SSEF event. Learn more about your company's specialism on the **Prime Contractors** page. Decide which Subcontractors you'll hire, using our **easy-to-navigate subcontractors list**. To improve your product (design), there's background information about your **client**, the Foundation Society, with a comprehensive **timeline** of all Foundation Society settlements. To improve your work processes, there's **plenty of other tips** for success, including interpreting an RfP, using AI, and the essentials for working as part of a team.

Make use of all the helpful tools and tips on the UKSDC website.

TOP RESOURCE:

TOP RESOURCE-

UKSDC Website

As you know, in SSEF competitions and challenges you're 'working against the clock' and time always runs out. Our top tip this season is to **make a plan**. Even if you don't manage to stick to it, make sure that your company has a clear action plan for the day's work including the task deadlines, meeting times and breaks. Your plan will make it much easier to track your progress and your company designers will know when they're expected to have completed their tasks, shared work and agreed designs with their peers.

Make a clear plan for the day at the start, then communicate it, monitor it and adjust the plan when it (inevitably) goes off course!

STUDENT STORIES

Alfred Williamson

We are thrilled to hear that UKSDC and ISSDC alumnus Alfred Williamson has been offered a place at Harvard University, class of 2028. Alfred will begin his journey at Harvard studying Physics and Philosophy later this year and we can't wait to hear all about it.

Congratulations Alfred!



From student to staff.

From student to staff - my journey with SSEF
Corinne Barker MPhys (Oxon).

For the full article, [CLICK HERE](#)

If you want your experiences to be featured in our Newsletter, then let us know by contacting us at b.mann@ssef.org.uk



VOLUNTEER STORIES

Interview with a volunteer: Gianni Austin Taking EDC to Barbados

Who are you?

I'm Gianni Austin, UKSDC & ISSDC competition veteran, and a volunteer newly serving as Barbados Liaison for SSEF.

Do you live in Barbados?

No, I have always lived in the UK and I am studying at Imperial College London. That being said, I'm proud that I have a mixed heritage from Thailand and Barbados.

Great! What are you studying at Imperial?

Biomedical Engineering, which relates to the engineering of medical devices. Its foundational principles are widespread as it applies maths, computing, physics, chemistry and biology theory to produce solutions with big impact, benefitting real people. It's the same multidisciplinary approach that the SSEF programmes have. Ultimately, bioengineering is all about people, just like the design competitions/challenges. imately, bioengineering is all about people, just like the design competitions/challenges.

What's your connection with Barbados?

My father is from Barbados. It is a wonderful country of fewer than half a million, and it is the most eastern island in the Caribbean. Unfortunately, it faces environmental challenges at a disproportionate level due to its size and geographical location.

Why are you motivated to run a Design Challenge in Barbados?

I've only been to Barbados once but, looking to reconnect with my roots, I reached out to the BECT (*Barbados Environmental Conservation Trust*) to see how I could help, even from England. I came to realise that the SSEF's Environmental Design Challenge would be a great initiative for students there. The students would encounter pressing issues, EDC clearly aligns with the values of the BECT and I believe that such a sophisticated challenge would succeed there because Barbadian culture places great emphasis on education. Ultimately, all sorts of



students could benefit from this; they'd be developing transferable skills, gaining general awareness of environmental threats, and experiencing collaboration on finding solutions across so many issues. Plus, the design challenges are so fun. We've all felt it. They are fantastic for anyone from any discipline.

Why did you choose Environmental instead of Space? Space also requires strong attention to environmental impacts.

Theme, time and expandability. The BECT is environmentally focused, the Earth's environmental issues are very relevant to Barbados and, not being a competition, EDC has fewer rules and a smaller admin load for organisers.

Are you going to write an EDC brief set in Barbados?

No. The effort to research all the background material would be huge. All space RfPs are 'non-local', so we are sticking to that strategy. Doing designs for an unfamiliar place compels designers to do their research with a professional curiosity, instead of pushing a personal concern or a local political motive.

What's good about the Sierra Leone setting?

Being a fellow Commonwealth country, it shares familiar systems which makes it relatable. But its geohazards, its medical risks (it has handled two Ebola outbreaks this century) and very low GDP mean that the design solutions need to be SL-specific and not a cut-and-paste from our hometowns. Also, the World Bank provides free information resources of a high quality.

What's your role in this for SSEF?

Volunteer Barbados Liaison for SSEF. It is like what the EUSDC country coordinators do. Because the BECTrust is an established organisation, I don't have to invent admin systems and I'll have local executives to give support. It minimises direct workload on SSEF staff whilst maximising SSEF impact. I think everyone will benefit, not least the students in Barbados.

Congratulations on finding such a win-win idea!

Thank you. Win-win is an apt description.

If you want your experiences to be featured in our Newsletter, then let us know by contacting us at b.mann@ssef.org.uk

VOLUNTEERING

Gain work experience, have fun, and support the Space Science and Engineering Foundation, (SSEF), by becoming a volunteer. We need help with both our senior and junior Space and Environmental challenges. Modes are online or in person, weekends or in the summer.

Volunteers are essential to the SSEF to enable us to run our free to enter events in the UK and EU .

To read more about the benefits of volunteering, the modes of volunteering, what you do/do not do as a volunteer, and how you can have impact, fun and learn, [CLICK HERE](#).

NEWS

We look at the latest space and environmental news from around the world.



Inside Science

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Space News

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UN Environmental news

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#SPACE & #ENVIRO ON SOCIAL



If you're interested in learning more about space then there is so much information out there on social media. Below is a selection of some recent #space tweets and videos! Why not follow some of the sites to keep up to date with all the latest news.



@Spacegovuk

We inspire and lead the UK in space to benefit our planet and it's people.

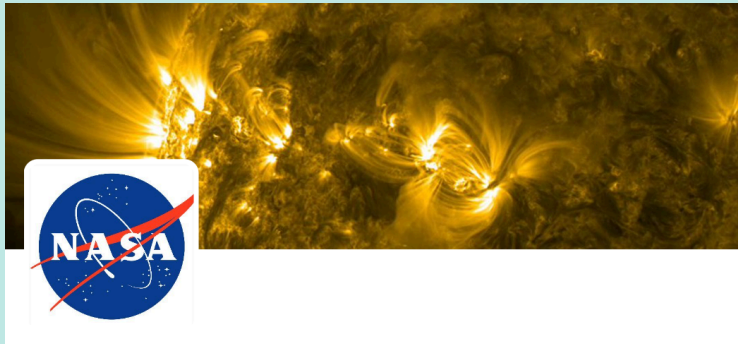
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@Space_Station

NASA's page for the latest updates from the International Space Station.

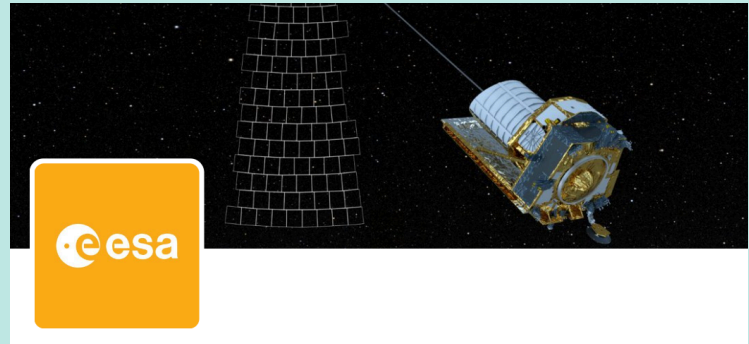
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@NASA

There's space for everybody. ✨

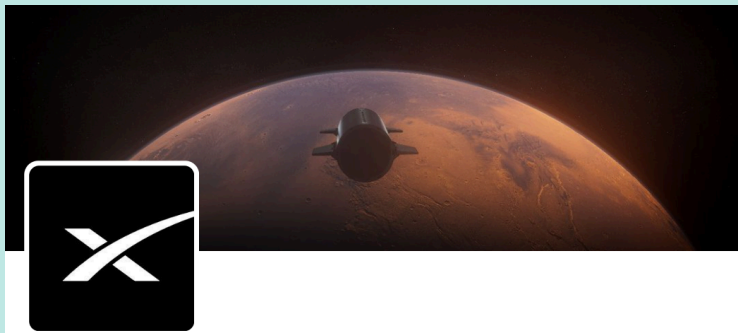
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@esa

From Earth orbit to deep space

[Click Here](#)



@SpaceX

SpaceX designs, manufactures and launches some of the world's most advanced rockets and spacecraft.

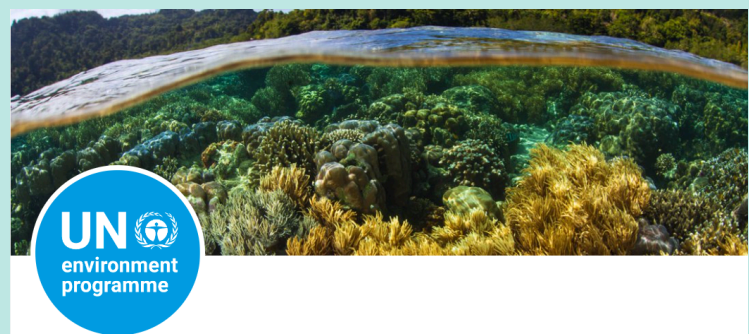
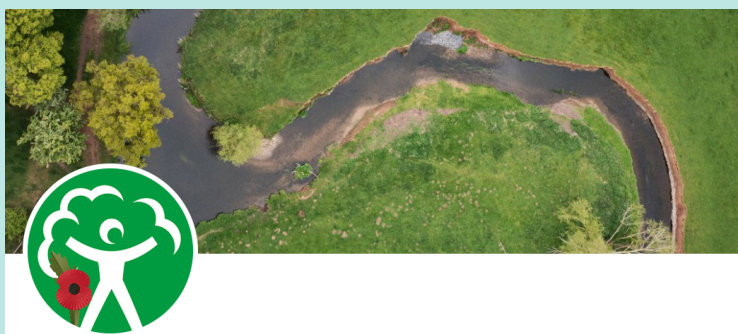
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@UNEP

Official account of @UN Environment Programme. Updates on triple planetary crisis.

[Click Here](#)

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

If your school would like more information on any of SSEF's programmes, please contact Jenny Lyons at j.lyons@ssef.org.uk or Sam Hession at s.hession@ssef.org.uk

Other ways to get involved with the SSEF

Become a Sponsor

Volunteer

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Students will never forget the people they meet, the friends they make, or the supporters who help them. Backing the SSEF is not a one-way street. Sponsorship is as advantageous for you and your future as for the young designers and explorers of tomorrow.



Thanks for reading.

Please consider a [donation to SSEF](#).

Space Science Environmental & Engineering Foundation

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