

# Nasa solar sail tracker





## Overview

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Is NASA's solar sail spacecraft visible in the night sky?

NASA's solar sail spacecraft is visible in the night sky. Here's how to see it | Space NASA's solar sail spacecraft is visible in the night sky. Here's how to see it NASA's Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3) can be seen with the naked eye as it orbits Earth, and can be tracked with a helpful app.

Where can you see the advanced composite solar sail system?

Now that its reflective sail has deployed fully open in orbit, the Advanced Composite Solar Sail System can be seen in the night sky from many locations across the world! Stargazers can join NASA's #SpotTheSail campaign by using the NASA app on mobile platforms to find out when the spacecraft will be visible at their location.

Can a solar sail be seen in the night sky?

An experimental NASA solar sail can be seen in the night sky as it orbits the Earth. NASA's Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3) launched in April 2024 atop a Rocket Lab Electron rocket. The mission is designed to test solar sail technology to help NASA develop larger spacecraft in the future using this next-generation propulsion system.

Will the solar sail system be visible to skywatchers on Earth?

Now, with the sail fully extended, the Solar Sail System may be visible to some keen skywatchers on Earth who look up at the right time. Stay tuned to NASA.gov and @NASA Ames on social media for updates on how to catch the spacecraft passing over your area.

What is NASA's composite solar sail system?

NASA's Advanced Composite Solar Sail System is testing new technologies in low Earth orbit, including a composite boom system that supports a four-piece sail. Not to be confused with solar panels, solar sails allow small spacecraft to



"sail on sunlight," eliminating the need for rocket fuel or other conventional propellants.

Are solar sails a good idea for Deep Space Exploration?

A photo taken from aboard NASA's Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3) spacecraft. (Image credit: NASA) Solar sails could lower the cost of deep space exploration while also enabling missions of long durations, since their fuel supplies never exhaust.



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### NASA's newly unfurled solar sail has started 'tumbling' end-over ...

A NASA spacecraft that recently unfurled a state-of-the-art solar sail in Earth orbit is "tumbling or wobbling" through space as it circles our planet, new observations show.

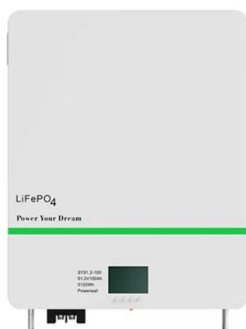
### How to Spot NASA's Solar Sail Spacecraft in the Night ...

Look for the **\*\*Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3)\*\*** under "Featured missions." Tap on "Sightings" to view a list of upcoming sighting opportunities based on your location.



### NASA solar sail to be Siriusly visible in orbit from Earth

The solar panel and antenna placement had to be carefully designed to avoid interference with the solar sail apparatus, and the attitude of the spacecraft had to become fixable following sail deployment to enable the sail's ...



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