

Are we alone in the universe?

Mission Log 537 (17.1.2056)

We are pleased to report that mission '*Are we alone in the universe?*' has been a resounding success! The robotic probes - fired from planet Earth two years ago - did indeed reach the star system of X378K. They discovered that two of the system's orbiting planets are home to life in forms that we never could have imagined. Please see below for details of these two worlds and the extraterrestrials which inhabit them. WARNING: this information is classified as strictly CONFIDENTIAL!

Planet 456XM

Touching down on the planet's surface shortly after 03:00 on 24.6.2032, the robotic probes reported these initial findings. The main landscape of the planet appears to be luminous, emerald rock with deep cracks running through the surface. There are no signs of vegetation or liquid water in any form and the probes' sensors and cameras detected no towering mountains or rolling hills as they roamed the planet's surface. Out of the cracks mentioned before, dense clouds of molten metal emanate and fill the atmosphere so that visibility is reduced to a mere 6%. The atmosphere would be completely incompatible with human life - given that it is molten iron - and gravity is so intense that any human would be crushed to death within seconds. One astonishing feature of Planet 456Xm is that the molten metal has also formed solid, 'rock' clouds high up in the atmosphere.

Species 423Z

In terms of alien life, the probes encountered only one form of living creature. Shaped in the form of a rough star, Species 423Z, as we have named it, has the ability to hover across the planet's surface and withstand the intense gravity and deadly atmosphere. Its facial features consist of two slit-like eyes surrounded by fur, an opening for a mouth/nose, however, no ears in the form we know. Whilst 432Z has no legs or feet, it does possess broad wings dotted with miniscule claws around the edges. It is unknown what purpose these claws have, although one possibility is for defence. The colour of this extraterrestrial is a mixture of rusty yellow and crimson with patches of teal green on the outer edges of the wings. Our probes reported that Species 432Z emits a low-pitched humming sound once in a blue moon but is typically completely silent, especially when moving in groups. For the moment, we have designated this creature as NON-HOSTILE as it made no attempt to interfere with our probes' work.