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**Mission**

The British Interplanetary Society promotes the exploration and use of space for the benefit of humanity, by connecting people to create, educate and inspire, and advance knowledge in all aspects of astronautics.



**171-173 NASA's latest women astronauts**

Dr Neil Da Costa begins our special selection of features about women in space with a review of the four women astronauts selected in 2013 but who became eligible for flight assignment in 2015. They were part of the first group chosen by NASA equally divided in number between men and women.



**174-175 German Female Astronaut Initiative**

Tony Quine tracks the continuing activity to find a single candidate for sending a German woman astronaut to space, with the six finalists now waiting for the next phase of the competition.



**176-177 Hidden Figures**

Robin Tucker reports on the film "Hidden Figures" and the aspirational use of the story about African-American women in NASA's Mercury programme. Used by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox to encourage more girls to select STEM subjects for school and university, Robin shows how simulating stories such as this can have a very real motivational effect.



**178-181 Speedmaster for space!**

Philip Corneille makes a welcome return to *Spaceflight*, bringing us the fascinating story of Omega, space-rated watches and the unique, but largely ignored part they play in the story of the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo missions.



**182 UK Space on the Up**

Co-founder of Nebula Sciences Ltd, Samuel Harrison provides an insightful reflection on the progress being made to place the UK at the very centre of international space activities through its science and engineering teams across the country.

**Regular Features**

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**Cover image:** Women play an inspirational role in every aspect of space science, engineering and exploration. Here, Italian-ESA astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti in the Cupola at the ISS points to the approaching SpaceX CRS-6 Dragon capsule during Expedition 43 in 2015.

NASA