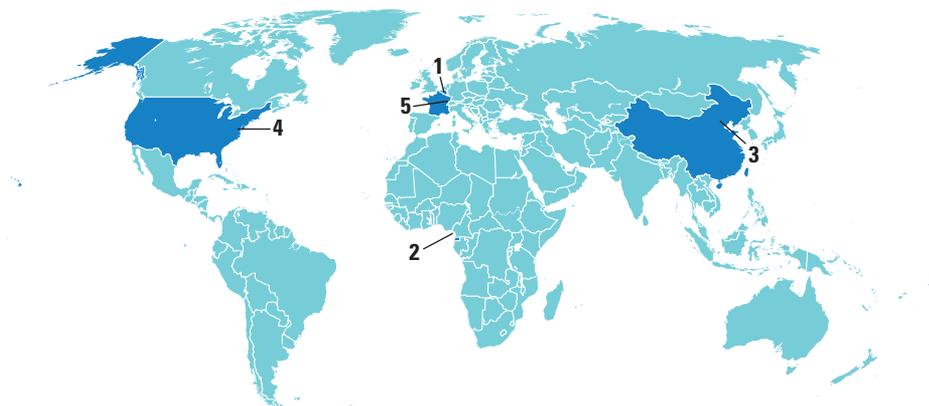


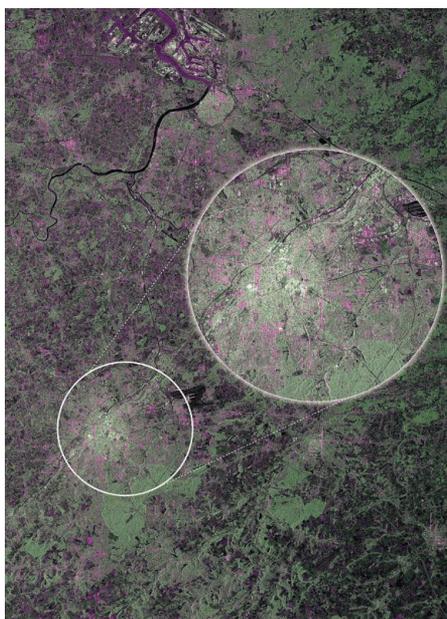
AROUND THE WORLD



Brussels 1

Sentinel-1A Sends First Pics

The European Space Agency's (ESA's) Sentinel-1A satellite, launched on 3 April, has sent home its first radar images of Earth, including this image of Brussels taken on 12 April. It shows the dense city center in white, vegetation in green, and waterways in black. Sentinel-1A uses advanced radar



technology to “see” in the dark or through obstacles such as clouds and rain. It can capture images that can be used for urban planning and to monitor glaciers, manage water resources, or devise emergency response.

The mission is the first in a new family of satellite missions that will form part of the Copernicus environmental monitoring program, an €8.4 billion joint initiative of the European Commission and ESA. Coperni-

cus will pull together data from the environmental satellites as well as ground-based and airborne stations to study the overall health of the planet.

Malabo 2

Polio Spreads Farther Into Central Africa

The polio outbreak in Cameroon detected last October is spreading. As of last week, three cases were reported in neighboring Equatorial Guinea, which was polio-free for 15 years. The situation is “very alarming,” says Bruce Aylward, who heads the global initiative to eradicate polio. The Cameroon virus is closely related to one last seen in Chad in 2011, which suggests it has been circulating undetected in the region for several years due to poor surveillance and low immunization rates. In Equatorial Guinea, the routine immunization rate is about 40%.

Experts are on high alert to detect further spread to nearby countries—particularly Nigeria, which has been making impressive gains in quashing the virus, and the war-torn Central African Republic, where mounting an emergency response would be extremely challenging.

Beijing 3

China's Soil Woes In Sharper Focus

The Chinese government has lifted the veil a bit on a nationwide soil survey that it had classified as a state secret (*Science*, 28 March, p. 1415). The environment ministry posted a bulletin to its website on 17 April divulging that 16% of sites tested during the 5-year survey are polluted. The report concludes that China's overall soil environment is “not optimistic.”

Especially worrying to researchers is that pollution is most widespread on agricultural lands, where 19% of sites are tainted. Major contaminants, the bulletin noted, are heavy metals such as cadmium, mercury, arsenic, and lead. The report blames mining and industrial waste for fouling croplands. However, much of the data from the survey—which ran from 2005 to 2010—remains under lock and key. “The transparency is not enough,” says Chen Ruishan, a geologist at Hohai University in Nanjing.

China's State Council has ordered the environment ministry to formulate a plan for curtailing future soil pollution and for remediating contaminated land, the bulletin states. But “we need to know about the spatial distribution” of the soil pollution to devise a remediation strategy, Chen says—and that kind of map has not been released to the public.

Richmond 4

Climate Scientist Prevails In Virginia High Court

The Virginia Supreme Court has ruled in favor of climatologist Michael Mann in a fight over whether the former University of Virginia (UVA) climatologist must turn over e-mails requested by means of a 2011 state Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. The court upheld a lower court ruling that UVA did not have to hand over the e-mails to the Energy & Environment Legal Institute (formerly the American Tradition Institute). It ruled that the e-mails, which touched on scientific data and publications, essentially belonged to Mann and were not public property.

“It is the end of this episode, and a win in this battle,” says Mann, now at Pennsylvania State University, University Park. He says the decision sets an important precedent for “many similar FOIA-based bad faith attacks on climate scientists in the months and years ahead in other states.” The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, however, says the ruling provides overly broad protections for universities seeking to withhold e-mails from reporters and the public.

Strasbourg, France 5

E.U. Parliament Clears Beefed-Up Industry Partnerships

The European Parliament has endorsed a €9 billion spending package for big research partnerships with industry. In several votes held last week in Strasbourg,



Saturn's New Friend

As viewed by NASA's Cassini spacecraft, "Peggy" is just an unassuming bright dot right at the edge of Saturn's outermost ring (the A ring). But in fact, Cassini may have observed the birth of a brand-new moon around the ringed planet, scientists reported online in the journal *Icarus* last week. Cassini snapped the picture on 15 April 2013, documenting a bright arc and an unusual distension of the ring that scientists think are caused by the gravitational effects of the object. Although the moon itself may not hold together long, witnessing its birth could help better explain the formation of Saturn's other icy moons within long-vanished, even more massive rings. NASA scientists plan to move Cassini's orbit closer to the outer edge of the A ring in 2016 to get a better look at Peggy.

France, the Parliament approved the creation or continuation of six Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), part of the so-called Innovation Investment Package announced last year (<http://scim.ag/JTIEU>). JTIs are large programs that support industry research in areas considered complex, slow, or risky—such as the development of clean aircraft or novel medicines. Businesses say they will match public funds in kind, to reach about €17 billion for all six JTIs over the next 7 years.

The European Union's contribution will come from the budget for Horizon 2020, the bloc's research funding program for 2014 to 2020. At the request of member states, industry partnerships were protected from cuts that affected the rest of Horizon 2020's budget during planning negotiations. That protection prompted criticism from universities, who argue that academic grants lost out to industry research.

Member states are expected to formally approve the decisions before the programs are launched in July.

NEWSMAKERS

Science Wins Awards for Archaeology, Polio Stories

Science's immersive multimedia story "The Thousand-Year Graveyard" by **Ann Gibbons** has won the annual Gene S. Stuart Award for archaeology writing from the Society for

American Archaeology. The story's slideshows, videos, and text (<http://scim.ag/thouyear>) take readers to a graveyard in Tuscany as archaeologists uncover a tortured history of death and disease. The online treatment of the 13 December 2013 story was created by a six-person team.

And for her 4 October 2013 story on polio eradication in northern Nigeria



Gibbons



Roberts

(<http://scim.ag/polioerad>), *Science* Deputy News Editor **Leslie Roberts** received a 2013 Award for Excellence in Health Care Journalism from the Association of Health Care Journalists. To learn about the "art" of eradicating polio, Roberts traveled through the African nation with a former Nigerian health minister, exploring the roles of money, tradition, education, and violence in efforts to stamp out the disease.

FINDINGS

New Stem Cells a Genetic Match for Adults

Scientists are a step closer to developing replacement tissue that won't be rejected by a patient's immune system. Researchers have created human embryonic stem cells carrying the DNA of specific adults. Theoretically, such stem cells can form any of the body's cell types and could be used in new treatments for Parkinson's disease, diabetes, and many other diseases.

Researchers, led by Young Gie Chung of the Research Institute for Stem Cell Research in Los Angeles, California, reported creating the stem cells using skin cells from one 35-year-old male and one 75-year-old male online on 17 April in *Cell Stem Cell*. The scientists built on the work of a team led by Shoukhrat Mitalipov of the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland. Mitalipov's group removed the DNA-containing nucleus from human eggs and replaced it with skin cells from infants and fetuses, a technique called somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT). SCNT was used to clone Dolly the sheep in 1996—but rather than clone humans, researchers take the early-stage embryos that result from SCNT and derive stem cells. The new study's team showed that with minor tweaks, this technique also works for adults.

THEY SAID IT

"[B]anishing this research from Boston, the world's densest concentration of medical brainpower, would impede scientists' ability to learn from one another."

—Editorial in *The Boston Globe* on 13 April reacting to a proposed city ordinance to ban biosafety level 4 research at Boston University's National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories.

Science

This Week's Section

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