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From AIAA Daily Launch, February 1, 2024

Collins Aerospace Tests Next-Gen Spacesuit

Spaceflight Now (2/1) reports that on Tuesday, teams with Collins Aerospace “completed a testing series called the Crew Capability Assessment.” This is one “of several milestones laid in NASA’s Exploration Extravehicular Activity Services (xEVAS) contract valued at \$97.2 million and awarded to Collins in December 2022.” Collins is “designing its suit in collaboration with ILC Dover and Oceaneering.” Former NASA astronauts, John “Danny” Olivas and Dan Burbank, “each donned the suit and performed a series of test objectives while onboard a Zero Gravity plane that’s able to perform parabolic maneuvers to simulate microgravity for short bursts.”

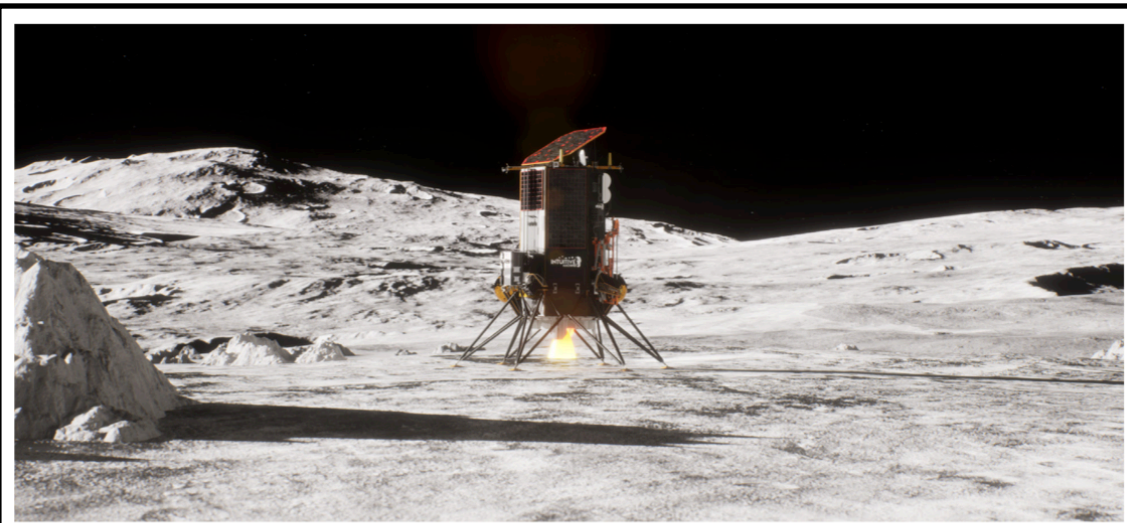


Illustration of Intuitive Machines' Nova-C lander with a depiction of NASA's the Polar Resources Ice-Mining Experiment-1 attached to the spacecraft on the surface of the Moon. Credit: Intuitive Machines/ Carter Pytel

- Slide 2 - **Diversity**-with “... the ultimate pivot,” since June 2, 2020
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The Starry Night, 1889, Vincent van Gogh. Image credits (2): Wikipedia



From AIAA Daily Launch, February 1, 2024

NASA, SpaceX Target Late February Launch Date For Crew-8 Astronaut Mission

SPACE (2/1) reports that SpaceX’s next astronaut launch “for NASA will take place in just three weeks, if all goes according to plan.” February 22 “is the target launch date for Crew-8, which will send four people to the International Space Station (ISS) for a six-month stay.” Crew-8’s Crew Dragon capsule “will launch atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Pad 39A at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.” Aboard the Dragon “will be Matthew Dominick, Michael Barratt and Jeanette Epps of NASA and Alexander Grebenkin of the Russian space agency Roscosmos.”



The official insignia of the SpaceX Crew-8 mission (Nov. 9, 2023)

The official insignia of the SpaceX Crew-8 mission. Dragon Crew-8, composed of NASA astronauts Matthew Dominick, Michael Barratt, and Jeanette Epps, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Grebenkin, is ready to stand the watch on its mission to maintain a continuous human research presence in low-Earth orbit represented by the never-ending path of a Latin numeral 8 with the dragon bowing with respect to the destination, the International Space Station. Image Credit: NASA



Diversity

The 2021-2023 AIAA Diversity Plan

The 2021-2023 AIAA Diversity Plan  
Archived on our Houston Section Server

Goals and Objectives

- 1
- GOAL 1: DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ARE WIDELY RECOGNIZED WITHIN THE AIAA COMMUNITY AS ESSENTIAL TO THE MISSION AND VISION OF THE INSTITUTE.
- 2
- OBJECTIVE 1:  
Increase awareness within the AIAA community of the importance of diversity and inclusion.

The Guardian

The Week in Patriarchy

Worried about airline safety? Blame diversity, say deranged rightwingers

Arwa Mahdawi

The 'DEI is making airplane travel unsafe' theory has gone from a fringe view to a staple of the US rightwing news

Sat 20 Jan 2024 09.00 EST

Harvard University

Ousted Harvard president Claudine Gay warns of 'a broader war' in op-ed

A day after resigning, university's first Black president says the call to testify on antisemitism at elite colleges was 'a well-laid trap'

Lois Beckett

@loisbeckett  
Thu 4 Jan 2024 13.43 EST

The Guardian

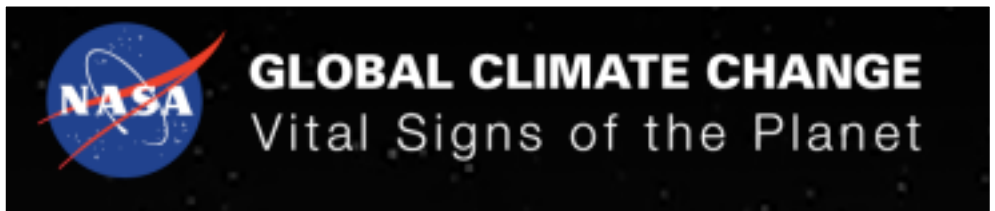
Some of the activists who campaigned most prominently against Gay made clear this week that their broader aim was opposing "diversity, equity and inclusion" (DEI) programs in **all US universities** and attacking DEI as a movement, not just opposing the choices of one individual Harvard president.



Climate

“...the ultimate sense of urgency...”

<https://climate.nasa.gov/>



Downloaded 2/2/2024



Sarah Stierch

Russian River flooding  
Monte Rio, California



Uploaded on January 14, 2023  
Taken on January 14, 2023

Some rights reserved

Thanks for reading Volts. Let me know what you think, and what you'd like to see more of, at [david@volts.wtf](mailto:david@volts.wtf).

VOLTS  
Electrifying battery recycling

0:001:05:37

### Electrifying battery recycling

A conversation with Aqua Metals CEO Steve Cotton.

DAVID ROBERTS  
JAN 24

(PDF transcript)



A UH-72 Lakota Helicopter assigned to the 1st Battalion, 224th Aviation Battalion, Vermont National Guard, flies over the Capital of Vermont in Montpelier, Vermont, July 11, 2023. This unit's mission was to survey heavy rain damage and report if there were stranded people that needed rescuing due to the recent storm that caused flooding throughout Vermont. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Michael Davis)



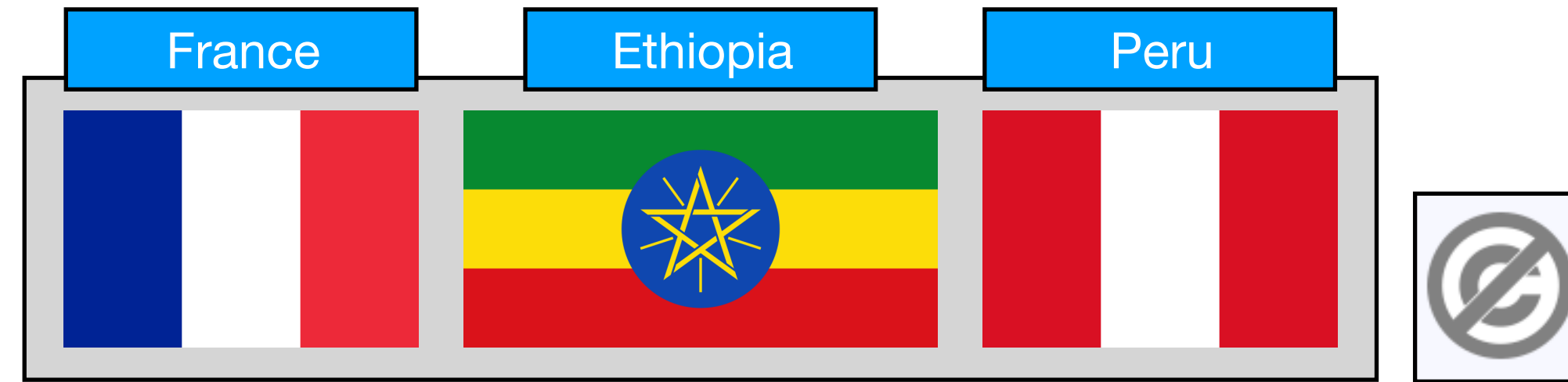
The National Guard  
Vermont National Guard

Uploaded on July 12, 2023  
Taken on July 11, 2023

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jackysumac@yahoo.com



## AIAA Houston Section sister sections

France-USA: [www.3af-mp.fr](http://www.3af-mp.fr)

France: Francis Guimera, preceded by Alain Chevalier

Houston: Douglas Yazell

Ethiopia-USA:

Ethiopia: Tulu Besha Bedada, PhD and Berhan Gessesse, PhD

Houston: Thomas Haregot

Peru-USA:

Houston: Jackelynne Silva-Martinez

Peru: Julio Valdivia, Saul Perez

AIAA Houston Section International Activities Committee (IAC)

Chair: Douglas Yazell, [douglas.yazell@me.com](mailto:douglas.yazell@me.com)



Globe images: Wikipedia.



France

**Paris**  
**Paris residents set to vote on plan to triple parking charges for SUVs**

**Green campaigners hope to win landmark vote, which is being watched closely by other cities such as London**

**Angelique Chrisafis in Paris**

@achrisafis  
Fri 2 Feb 2024 09.32 EST



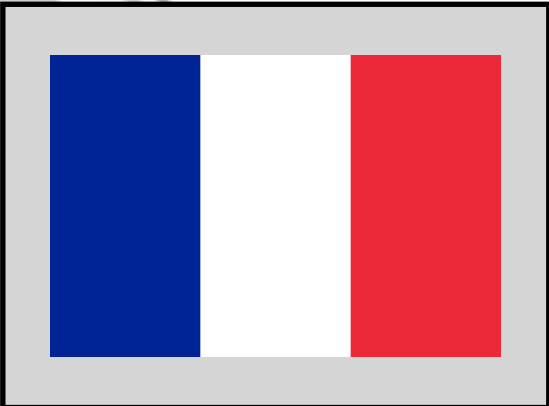
**Farming**  
**Explainer**  
**Why are farmers protesting across the EU and what can the bloc do about it?**

Food producers say increasing costs, tiny margins and climate policies leave livelihoods in peril

Disaffected farmers hurl eggs at European parliament

**Jon Henley Europe correspondent**

@jonhenley  
Fri 2 Feb 2024 00.00 EST



Globe image: Wikipedia.





Ethiopia

Ethiopia

# Ethiopia hails return of its first plane, stolen by Mussolini in 1930s

Red two-seater named after Emperor Haile Selassie's daughter abandoned in 1936 after Italy invaded country

Lorenzo Tondo in Palermo

@lorenzo\_tondo  
Wed 31 Jan 2024 07.25 EST

Weather tracker Environment

This article is more than 2 months old

Analysis

# Weather tracker: Ethiopia hit by severe drought amid east Africa floods

Morgan Thomas and Matt Williams for MetDesk

More than 50 people dead in Tigray and Amhara regions while UN warns of 'crisis-level hunger or worse' in Somalia

Fri 24 Nov 2023 04.44 EST

The Guardian

The Guardian

ETHIOPIAN SPACE SCIENCE SOCIETY



<https://www.ethiosss.org>

Current events:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ethiopia>



Head of mission	Mr Gezahegn Kebede, Honorary Consul
Consular services	No information available
Supervising authority	Embassy of Ethiopia in Washington, D.C.

Ethiopian Honorary Consulate in Houston, United States

Globe image: Wikipedia.



U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia

Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson



Deputy Chief of Mission Fiona Evans



Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, arrived in Addis Ababa on February 25, 2022 to begin her assignment as Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia. She previously served as Ambassador to Kosovo, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Ambassador Jacobson's earlier overseas assignments include Seoul, Moscow, Nassau, and Riga. Her domestic assignments include serving as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, Deputy Director of the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, and Deputy Executive Secretary of the National Security Council at the White House. Ambassador Jacobson is joined in Ethiopia by her husband, David Baugh, a retired member of the British Diplomatic Service.





**Dogs**

# Jack Russell terrier who loves to surf makes a splash on beaches of Peru

Four-year-old dog named Efruz ‘loves the sea’, according to his owner, and often perches on a surfboard to ride waves

*Associated Press*

Sat 27 Jan 2024 08.00 EST



**Peru**

🕒 This article is more than 1 month old

# Alberto Fujimori, Peru’s divisive former president, released from jail

The 85-year-old was pictured leaving prison in Lima where he was serving a 25-year sentence for human rights abuses



*Dan Collyns in Lima*

🐦 @yachay\_dc

Wed 6 Dec 2023 19.34 EST

Peru


Globe image: Wikipedia.



**Peruvian Consulate General in Houston, United States**

Head of mission	Mr Rodolfo Enrique Coronado Molina, Consul General
Consular services	No information available
Supervising authority	Embassy of Peru in Washington, D.C.


<https://www.theguardian.com/world/peru>



**U.S. EMBASSY IN PERU**

**Lisa Kenna**  
Ambassador

Ambassador Lisa Kenna is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister Counselor. She served most recently as the Executive Secretary of the Department of State.

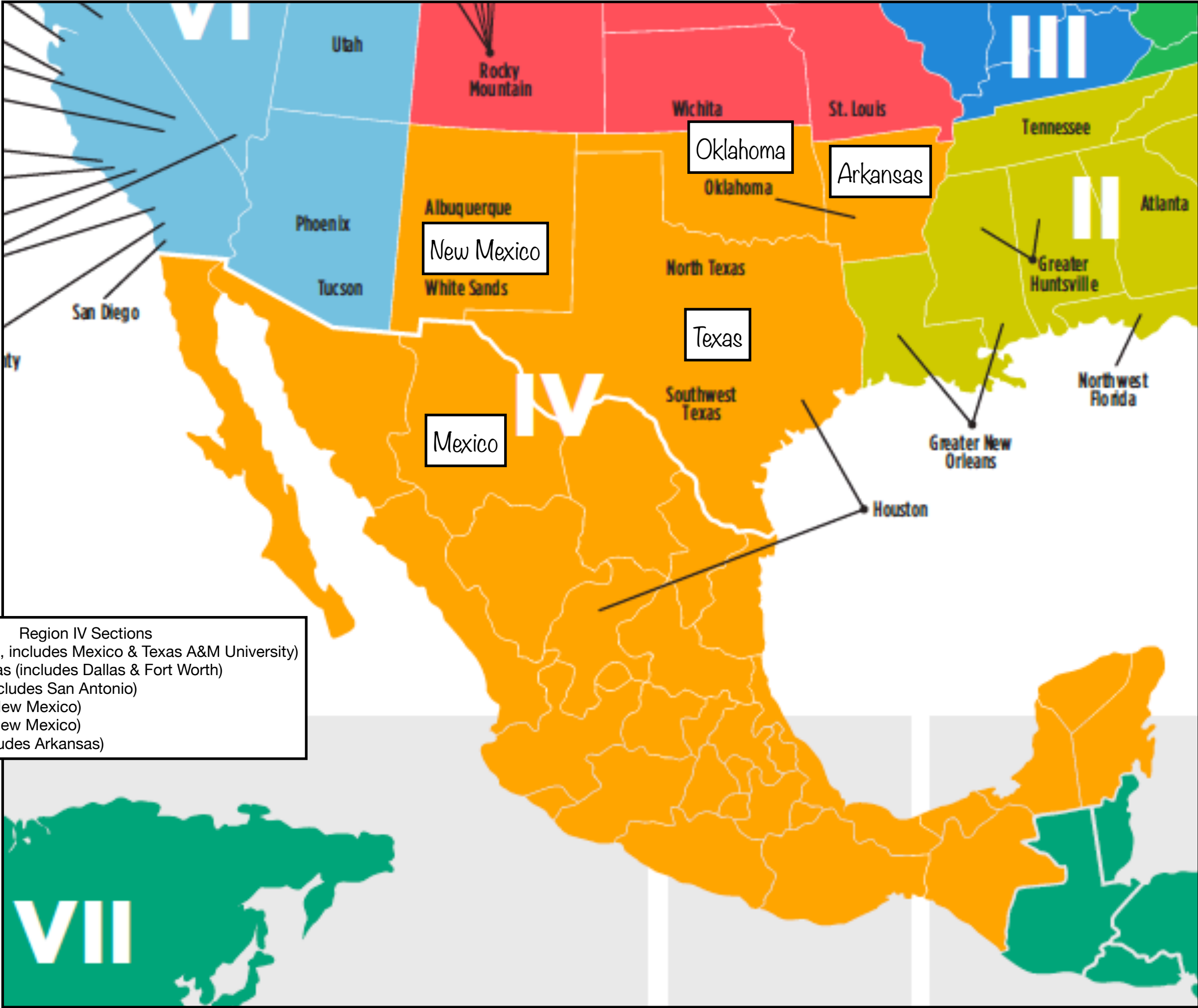




Mexico



AIAA Houston Section: Mexico and the Section’s territory in Texas  
AIAA Region VII (International) and Region IV (Mexico and four states of the USA)



- Region IV Sections
- 1. Houston (Texas, includes Mexico & Texas A&M University)
  - 2. Southwest Texas (includes Dallas & Fort Worth)
  - 3. North Texas (includes San Antonio)
  - 4. Albuquerque (New Mexico)
  - 5. White Sands (New Mexico)
  - 6. Oklahoma (includes Arkansas)



Mexico

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/mexico>

Seascape: the state of our oceans

How a US mining firm sued Mexico for billions – for trying to protect its own seabed

Local fishers helped halt underwater mining off Baja California’s coast in 2018. But then an obscure international legal process was put into motion

by [Laura Paddison](#) in San Juanico

Wed 31 Jan 2024 06.00 EST



US-Mexico border

Fight over border intensifies as Texas governor pledges more razor wire

Greg Abbott says he will defy Biden and US supreme court and install more concertina wire to try to prevent migrant crossings

Erum Salam

Fri 26 Jan 2024 13.14 EST



Globe image: Wikipedia.

Flag of the USA

Flag of Texas

U.S. EMBASSY & CONSULATES IN MEXICO

Head of mission	Alicia G. Kerber Palma, Consul General
Consular services	✓ Visa applications accepted ✓ Passport services available ✓ Legalization services available
Supervising authority	Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C.

Mexican Consulate General in Houston, United States

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO – KEN SALAZAR



Ken Salazar was sworn in as United States Ambassador to Mexico on September 2, 2021.

In 2009, President Obama nominated Mr. Salazar to serve as Secretary of Interior where he had a lead role on the Obama-Biden agenda on energy and climate, the nation's conservation agenda including America's Great Outdoors, and Indian Country. Ambassador Salazar has been a lifelong fighter for civil rights and the inclusion of Latinos in the American dream.

In 1998, Mr. Salazar was elected as Colorado Attorney General and became the first Latino ever elected to statewide office in Colorado. He was reelected as Attorney General in 2002. In 2004, Attorney General Salazar was elected to the United States Senate for Colorado becoming the first Latino democrat to be elected to the United States Senate since 1972.

Ambassador Salazar has been admitted to practice law in state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

Ambassador Salazar and his family have farmed along the banks of the Rio Grande River in New Mexico and Colorado for more than four centuries.



<https://climate.nasa.gov/>

AIAA Houston Section History Technical Committee Chair-Douglas Yazell

“...the ultimate sense of urgency...”

History

EV mythbusters Automotive industry

# Do electric cars pose a greater fire risk than petrol or diesel vehicles?

The first in a series exploring the myths and realities surrounding EVs



1



Jasper Jolly

@jjpjolly

Mon 20 Nov 2023 01.00 EST

EV mythbusters Automotive industry

# How problematic is mineral mining for electric cars?

In part two of our series exploring myths surrounding EVs, we weigh up the issues of resource extraction

Jasper Jolly

@jjpjolly

Fri 1 Dec 2023 01.00 EST

2



EV mythbusters Business

# Is it right to be worried about getting stranded in an electric car?

In part three of our series exploring myths surrounding EVs, we look at range anxiety and concerns about the charging network

Jasper Jolly

@jjpjolly

Sat 9 Dec 2023 01.00 EST

3



EV mythbusters Business

# Are electric cars too expensive to tempt motorists away from petrol and diesel vehicles?

In part four of our series exploring myths surrounding EVs, we weigh up the issue of costs

Jasper Jolly

@jjpjolly

Sat 16 Dec 2023 01.00 EST

4



EV mythbusters Business

# Do electric cars really produce fewer carbon emissions than petrol or diesel vehicles?

In part five of our series exploring myths surrounding EVs, we assess the greenwashing claims

Jasper Jolly

@jjpjolly

Sat 23 Dec 2023 05.00 EST

5



EV mythbusters Electric, hybrid and low-emission cars

# Making the switch to electric vehicles: ‘The biggest shock was the huge savings’

UK motorists outline the pros and cons in making the move to an electric vehicle

Jem Bartholomew

Sat 23 Dec 2023 05.00 EST

## Electric Vehicle Myths



United States Environmental Protection Agency

### On this page:

- [Myth #1: Electric vehicles are worse for the climate than gasoline cars because of power plant emissions.](#)
- [Myth #2: Electric vehicles are worse for the climate than gasoline cars because of battery manufacturing.](#)
- [Myth #3: The increase in electric vehicles entering the market will collapse the U.S. power grid.](#)
- [Myth #4: There is nowhere to charge.](#)
- [Myth #5: Electric vehicles don't have enough range to handle daily travel demands.](#)
- [Myth #6: Electric vehicles only come as sedans.](#)
- [Myth #7: Electric vehicles are not as safe as comparable gasoline vehicles.](#)