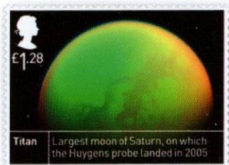
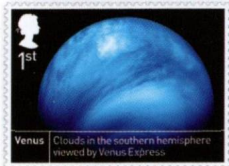


Out of this world

Six fascinating new stamps celebrate Britain's role in space science



The Space Science special stamp issue is released on 16 October. It marks the 50th anniversary of the launch of Ariel 1, the first British satellite, in 1962. All the images were chosen from those captured by satellites and probes from the European Space Agency (ESA). Britain is a member of the ESA and our scientists, universities and companies have made significant contributions to its space missions, including the Mars Express and the Cassini-Huygens probe to Saturn. One of the most exciting developments was the landing of the probe on Saturn's large moon, Titan, revealing a landscape remarkably similar to that of the earth.

Stamp by stamp Half a century ago, the six images shown on the new stamps had never been seen by the human eye...

1st Class – Sun: this image was gathered from the ESA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) midway between the Earth and the Sun. It shows particles being ejected from the solar surface.

1st Class – Venus: taken from the ESA's Venus Express probe, the photo shows clouds in the southern hemisphere of the second planet out from the Sun.

77p – Mars: a large area of ice within a 35km-wide impact crater on the red planet was photographed by the ESA's Mars Express probe.

77p – Lutetia: on route to a meeting with the comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko the ESA probe Rosetta came within 800km of the Lutetia asteroid, located in the asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

£1.28 – Saturn: illuminated by the Sun behind, the beautiful rings of Saturn were photographed by the Cassini probe.

£1.28 – Titan: in 2005 the ESA's Huygens probe parachuted through the atmosphere of Saturn's largest moon to land on Titan's surface. The image captured here was taken on the way to this historic encounter.

Royal Mail is producing a First Day Cover (FDC), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards and handstamps to accompany the Space Science stamp issue. The FDC

Above: the six stunning stamps of next month's Space Science issue celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ariel 1. Top right: the First Day Cover for 16 October



Space Science Stamps – Specifications

Date of issue	16 October
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Osborne Ross Design
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	30mm x 41mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Space Science Stamps – Prices

Stamps	£5.30
Presentation Pack	£5.80
First Day Cover UK	£6.84
First Day Cover overseas	£5.70
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Cards, set of 6	£2.70

Left and below: the illustrated Presentation Pack contains the six Space Science stamps and information about the solar system and the ESA probes that have explored it, written by Dr Stuart Clark. Right: pictorial and plain special postmarks and Tallents House postmark



and Presentation Pack are designed by TeamPublishing, with insert information written by astronomy journalist Dr Stuart Clark. Alternative pictorial and plain STAR, GAERWEN, GWYNEDD postmarks will be available.

Watch out for background details of the space science that inspires these beautiful stamps of our time in next month's edition of *Bulletin* ●

