German Aerospace Center

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Although the cover looks like batik work, it is actually an interferogram showing the landscape around the River Taz in Siberia. The data for the image was acquired by the TanDEM-X and TerraSAR-X satellites, which are flying in formation and surveying the surface of the Earth. By 2013, DLR will have created an extremely accurate digital elevation model of Earth's entire land surface.

Parallel robots can outperform their more conventional industrial cousins; equipped with electronically controlled vibration dampers, they achieve excellent positional precision combined with rapid acceleration and high travel speed. The many unique physical properties of aerogels mean that they can find application in such diverse areas as cryogenic superinsulation, pharmaceutical substrates and fuel cell electrodes.

New morphing structures for aircraft wings will allow the replacement of conventional high lift devices like leading-edge slats, making laminar-flow aerofoils a reality and reducing noise when deployed. This edition of the magazine focusses on multinational research; read how national and international cooperation for innovations in the areas of space, aeronautics, energy, transport and security is brought about.

DLR Magazine 130: Read online.

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