

52nd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) –  
The Next Steps (A4)  
Interactive Presentations - 52nd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL  
INTELLIGENCE (SETI) – The Next Steps (IP)

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## SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE

### Abstract

For decades, scientists around the world have dedicated their lives and dollars to one question: Is there anyone else out there? As far as we know, only one planet has life on it—Earth. But is it really possible that our planet is the only life-bearing planet in the entire universe? Some scientists believe that extraterrestrial life does exist, and some even believe that there may be advanced alien life. In this article, we will talk about the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, the technology and methods of this search. SETI, in full Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, ongoing effort to seek intelligent extraterrestrial life. SETI focuses on receiving and analyzing signals from space, particularly in the radio and visible-light regions of the electromagnetic spectrum, looking for nonrandom patterns likely to have been sent either deliberately or inadvertently by technologically advanced beings. The first modern SETI search was Project Ozma (1960), which made use of a radio telescope in Green Bank, West Virginia. SETI approaches include targeted searches, which typically concentrate on groups of nearby Sun-like stars, and systematic surveys covering all directions. The value of SETI efforts has been controversial; programs initiated by NASA in the 1970s were terminated by congressional action in 1993. Subsequently, SETI researchers organized privately funded programs—e.g., the targeted-search Project Phoenix in the U.S. and the survey-type SERENDIP projects in the U.S. and Australia. The SETI Institute is a not-for-profit research organization incorporated in 1984 whose mission is to explore, understand, and explain the origin and nature of life in the universe, and to use this knowledge to inspire and guide present and future generations, sharing knowledge with the public, the press, and the government. We are getting closer to discovering life on other worlds. SETI Institute’s researchers are in the forefront of this effort.