

The Politics Of Food
Why you need to care about the farm bill

Joe Klein on The Obama-Clinton Dustup

Hollywood's Top Guns
Streep, Cruise & Redford take on the war

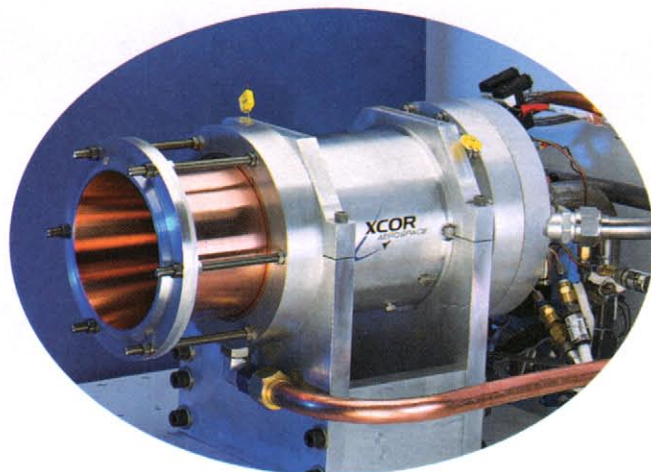
T T A T E

From the phone that has changed phones forever, to futuristic cars, to a building made of water, to a remote-controlled dragonfly—a dazzling display of ingenuity
Plus:
The Tech Buyer's Guide



THE BEST INVENTIONS OF THE YEAR

- Your Guide to the Most Interesting New Products and Ideas of 2007**
- 60** Invention of the Year: Apple's iPhone
- Special Pullout** Inventors Who Changed Our Lives
- 71** The Best of the Rest. Plus clever reinventions of everyday items
- 105** An Open Letter to Warren Buffett: Can you please make a better bra?
- 107** The Tech Buyer's Guide: Our selection of the year's best



Rocket Science

It's hard to find a filling station in space, but it's easy to find methane, abundant on many planets and moons. NASA is taking advantage of that with a **methane-fueled rocket** (above and in tests at right). Future probes could save weight by carrying a little fuel, then gassing up en route—just like any long-distance traveler.

Available Prototype
nasa.gov



REINVENTED
The Hand Dryer



High-Tech Hygiene

By forcing unheated air through a narrow gap at more than 400 m.p.h. (644 km/h), the energy-efficient Dyson Airblade dries hands in just 10 sec. flat.

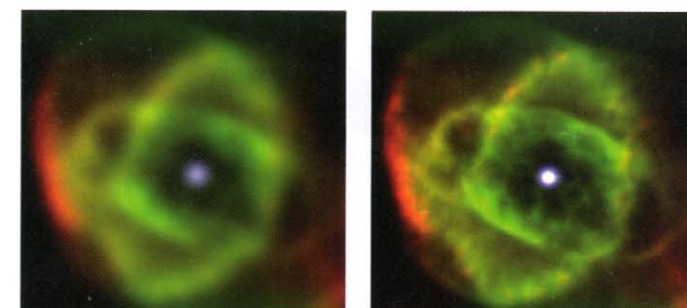


Spandex Space Suit

With manned space exploration in the doldrums, maybe what NASA needs is a new outfit for its astronauts. Enter Dava Newman, a professor of aeronautics at MIT, who is developing the **Bio-Suit**. It's a formfitting space suit made of elastic polymers that improve mobility. Because it applies pressure directly to the skin instead of pressurizing the air inside the suit, the way today's bulky suits do, it's also much lighter.

Available 2016
mvl.mit.edu/EVA/biosuit/index.html

METHANE ROCKET: MIKE MASSE; XCOR; (2) BIO-SUIT: ASIA KEPKA FOR TIME (2)



I Can See Clearly Now

Space-based telescopes like the Hubble are sharp and clear—no atmosphere in the way—but expensive. The **Lucky Camera** works with conventional telescopes, on the ground. It snaps up to 20 images per sec., sorts out the best ones and combines them into a picture sharper than the Hubble's at 1/50,000 the cost.

Available Prototype; could be widely available by 2009
ast.cam.ac.uk/~optics/Lucky_Web_Site/