

Image: Saturn's brightly reflective moon Enceladus

May 11 2012



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Space Science Institute

(Phys.org) -- A brightly reflective Enceladus appears before Saturn's rings, while the planet's larger moon Titan looms in the distance.

Jets of water ice and vapor emanating from the south pole of <u>Enceladus</u>, which hint at subsurface sea rich in organics, and <u>liquid hydrocarbons</u>



ponding on the surface on the surface of Titan make these two of the most fascinating moons in the Saturnian system.

Enceladus (313 miles, or 504 kilometers across) is in the center of the image. Titan (3,200 miles, or 5,150 kilometers across) glows faintly in the background beyond the rings. This view looks toward the anti-Saturn side of Enceladus and the Saturn-facing side of Titan. The northern, sunlit side of the rings is seen from just above the ringplane.

The image was taken in visible green light with the <u>Cassini spacecraft</u> narrow-angle camera on March 12, 2012. The view was acquired at a distance of approximately 600,000 miles (1 million kilometers) from Enceladus and at a Sun-Enceladus-spacecraft, or phase, angle of 36 degrees. Image scale is 4 miles (6 kilometers) per pixel on Enceladus.

Provided by JPL/NASA

Citation: Image: Saturn's brightly reflective moon Enceladus (2012, May 11) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <u>https://phys.org/news/2012-05-image-saturn-brightly-moon-enceladus.html</u>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.