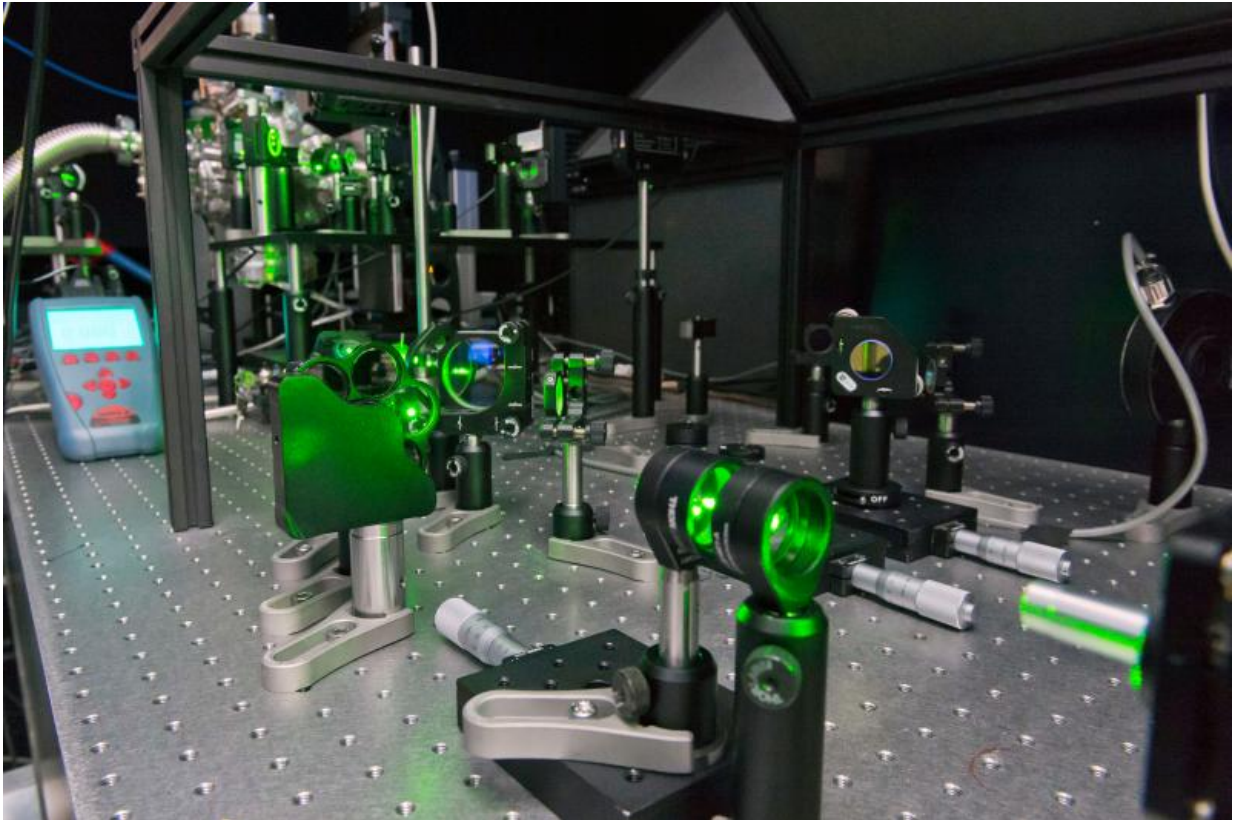


Image: Laser test bench

April 22 2015



Credit: ESA–A. Le Floc'h

This ESA test bench is usually shrouded in darkness, except for the laser beam being projected across it.

Human eyes are not normally supposed to witness the laser being fired – for this photo, it was fired at the lowest possible energy level, while the

camera was switched to its highest light-sensitive settings for an exposure time of half a second.

Lasers are versatile tools for space, variously used for remote sensing, interferometry and communications. ESA's Opto-Electronics Laboratory, at the Agency's ESTEC technical centre in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, specialises in assessing devices that generate, detect and manipulate light.

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: Image: Laser test bench (2015, April 22) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-04-image-laser-bench.html>

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