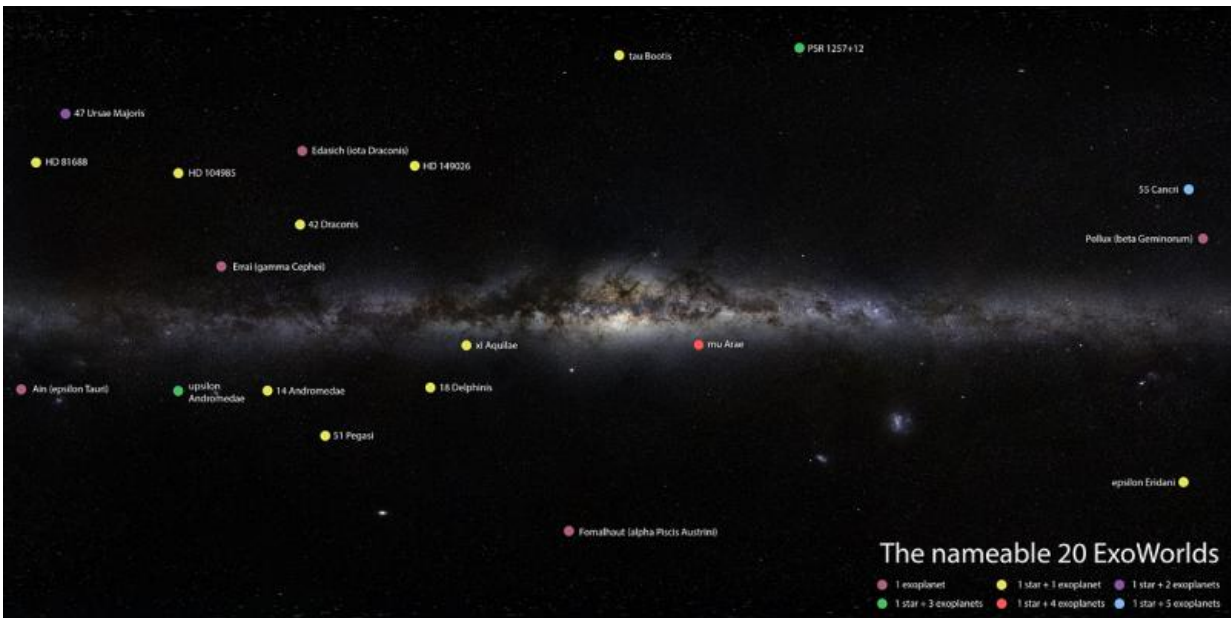


# 20 ExoWorlds are now available for naming proposals

May 1 2015



Location of 20 ExoWorlds in the Milky Way. Credit: IAU

Although people have been naming celestial objects for millennia, the IAU has the task of assigning scientifically recognised names to newly discovered celestial bodies by its member countries. The NameExoWorlds contest provides not only the first opportunity for the public to name exoplanets, but also, for the first time in centuries, to give popular names to some stars—those that have known exoplanets in orbit around them.

The list of the 20 ExoWorlds can be found from the link below. Some of them are single-planet systems, while others are multiple-planet systems. Each organisation can submit one naming proposal, for one ExoWorld only. The number of [names](#) that need to be submitted depends on which system is selected. For single- and multiple-planet systems, a name for each planet must be submitted, as well as one for the [host star](#). In the 20 ExoWorlds list, five [stars](#) already have common names. Consequently, these five stars cannot be considered for public naming. There are 15 stars and 32 planets (47 objects in total) available for naming. The name of the 20 host stars are explained and personal messages from some discoverers are also available [here](#).

To participate in the contest, clubs and non-profit organisations must first [register with the IAU Directory of World Astronomy](#). The deadline for registrations has been extended to 23:59 UTC on 1 June 2015.

The naming proposals can be submitted from the link below. All naming submissions having to abide by the IAU Exoplanet naming conventions and must be supported by a detailed argument for their choice. The deadline for submitting naming proposals is 23:59 UTC on 15 June 2015.

Once this stage has concluded, the public worldwide will be invited to vote on their favourite proposed names.

The final results are expected to be announced at a special public ceremony held during the IAU XXIX General Assembly in Honolulu, USA, 3–14 August 2015.

Provided by IAU

Citation: 20 ExoWorlds are now available for naming proposals (2015, May 1) retrieved 25 April

2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-05-exoworlds.html>

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