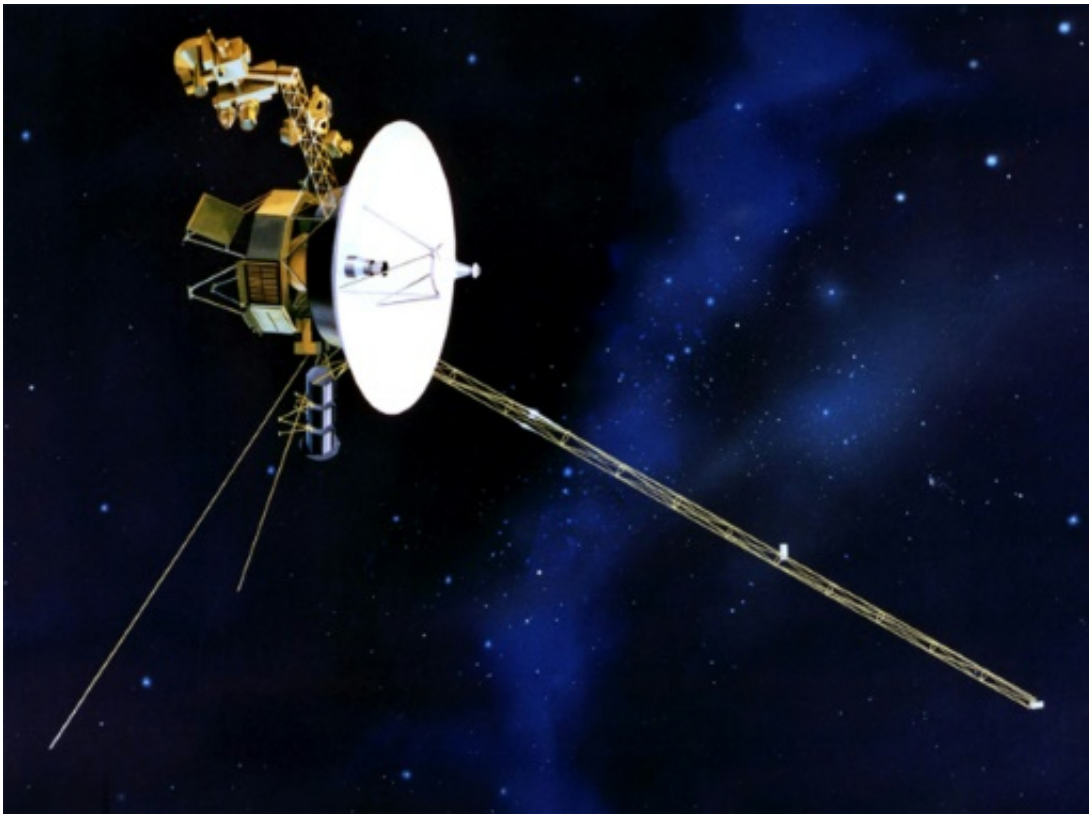


'Star Trek' actor Shatner sends message to Voyager

September 5 2017



A message of goodwill is being sent to the Voyager spacecraft, seen here in an artist's rendition released by NASA, on the 40th anniversary of its launch

NASA announced the winner Tuesday of a contest to send a message to the Voyager spacecraft which launched 40 years ago on a historic mission to explore the outer planets.

Star Trek actor William Shatner, who played Captain Kirk, read the message from mission control in Houston, before it was beamed out to Voyager 1, according to a broadcast on NASA television.

"We offer friendship across the stars. You are not alone," said the message, written by Oliver Jenkins, whose Twitter handle is @Asperger_Nerd.

The contest launched by NASA aimed to find the perfect goodwill message—under 60 characters long—to commemorate the twin spacecraft that launched in 1977 from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The spaceships explored Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, and also carried gold records containing messages, songs and images from Earth in case of encountering extraterrestrial life.

Voyager 1 has traveled farther than any human-made spacecraft, and made it to interstellar space, about 13 billion miles away from Earth, in August 2012.

Voyager 2 is on its way there too.

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