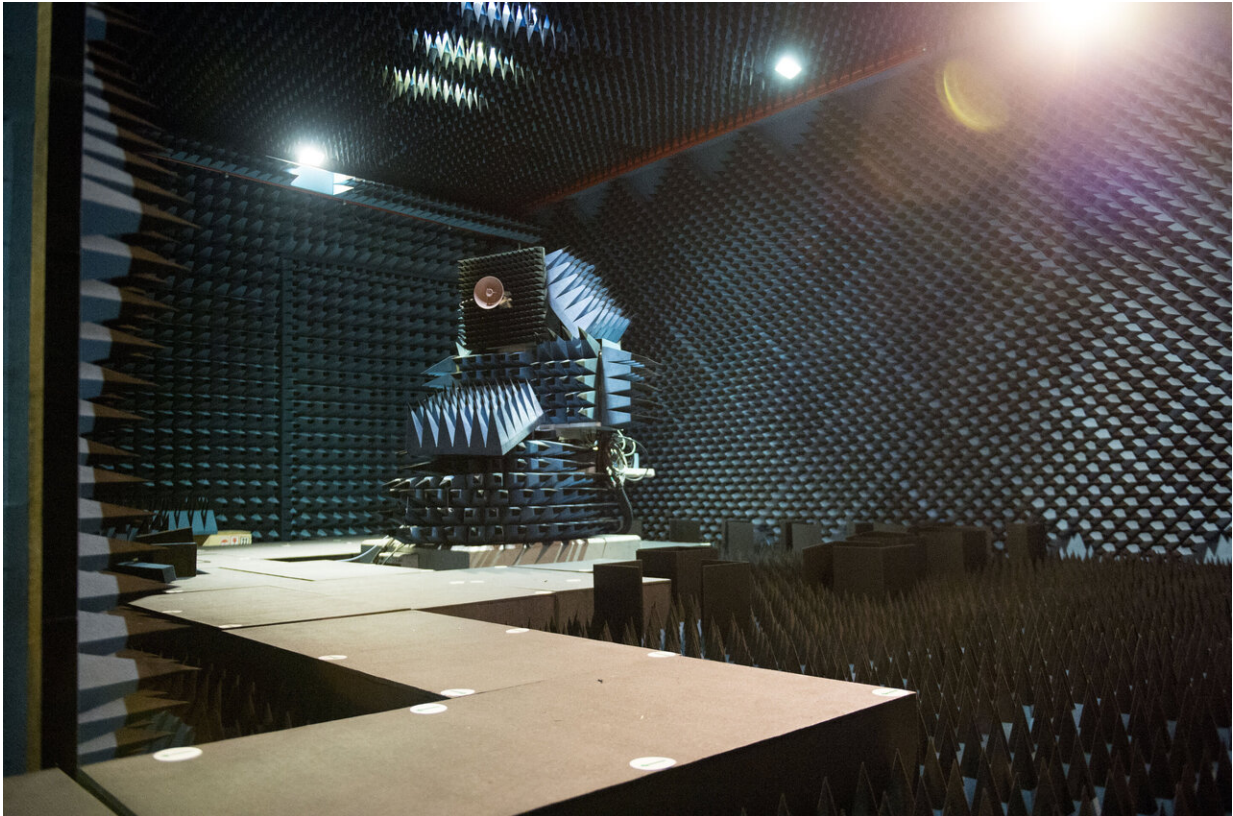


Image: Place for space testing

July 15 2020



Credit: ESA-G. Porter

ESA's Compact Antenna Test Range at its ESTEC technical centre in Noordwijk, the Netherlands. This anechoic chamber is used to test space antennas of 1 m across or less, or else entire small satellites.

The CATR is screened against external electromagnetic radiation, while

their inside walls is covered with pyramid-shaped non-reflective foam to absorb signals and prevent unwanted reflections, mimicking infinite space.

In addition, a pair of wall-mounted parabolic cylindrical aluminium reflectors alter the shape of signals as they reflect them, as if they have travelled thousands of kilometres instead of a handful of metres.

The CATR is supplemented by the larger Hybrid European RF and Antenna Test Zone (HERTZ) for larger antenna or satellite testing, as well as a lab for the testing of candidate [antenna](#) materials.

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: Image: Place for space testing (2020, July 15) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-07-image-space.html>

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