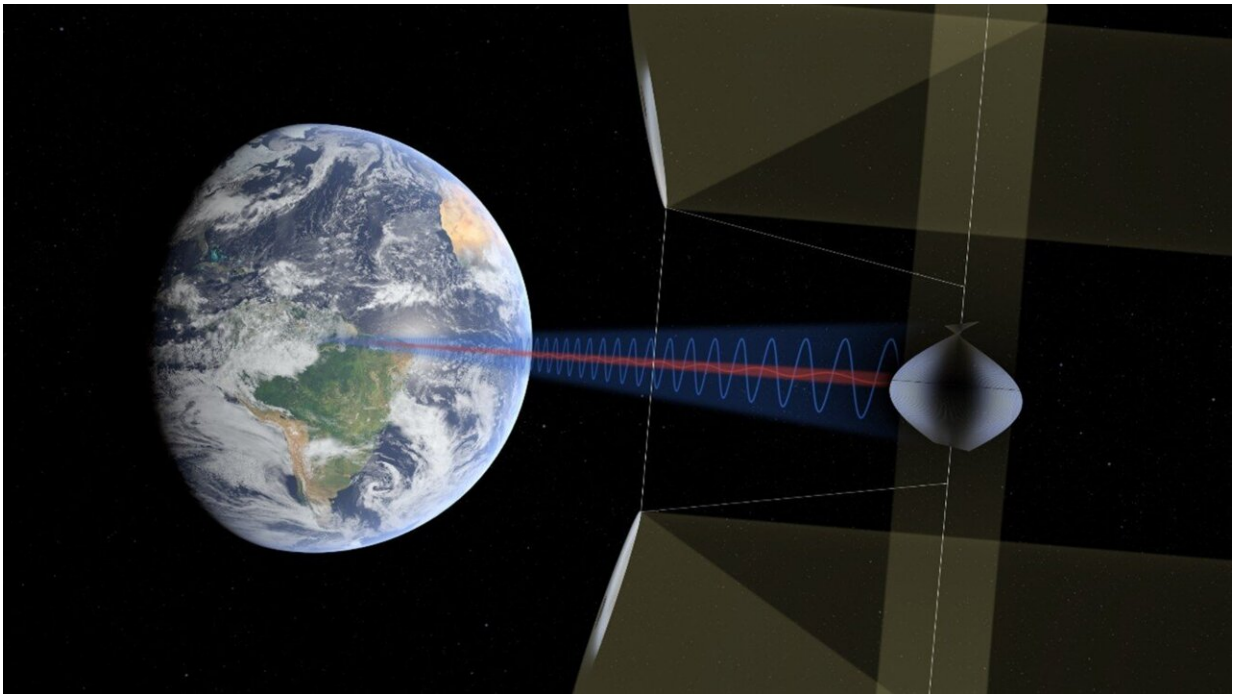


Solar-power satellites to collect stronger sunlight

April 4 2022



Credit: Frazer-Nash Consultancy

Solar energy generation keeps on becoming cheaper and more efficient, but some basic limitations will always apply: solar panels can only generate power during the daytime, and much of the sunlight is absorbed by the atmosphere as it shines downward. So ESA is working on the concept of collecting solar power up in orbit, where sunlight is up to 11 times more intense than across European territory, then beaming it down

to the ground for use.

As part of that effort, a new project looks into designing [solar-power](#) satellites, which would become the largest structures ever built in space. Frazer-Nash Consultancy will study the modular construction of solar-power satellites, to efficiently disassemble them as they come to their end-of-life for reuse or recycling.

Provided by European Space Agency

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