NASA maps 6,000 alien planets

NASA has published a dazzling new image of our *Milky Way* galaxy showing confirmed and candidate exoplanets, courtesy of its *TESS* space telescope, launched in 2018

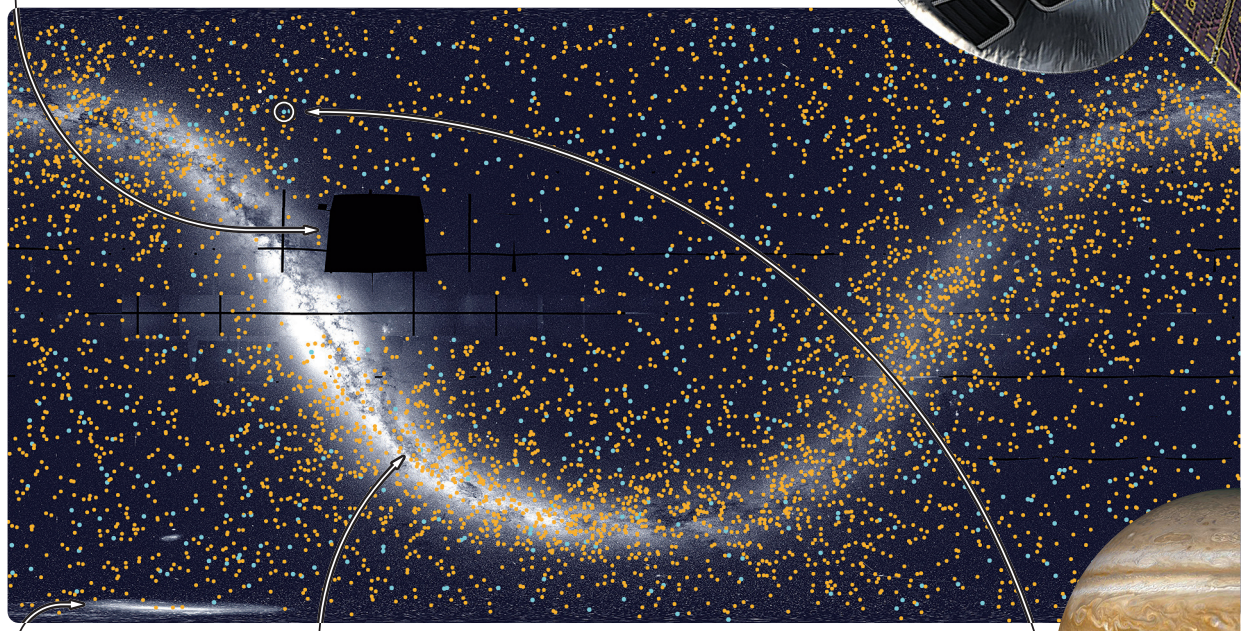
RECTANGULAR PROJECTION *(released May 13, 2026)*
Compiled from 96 scanned sectors – Apr 2018-Sep 2025

● *Confirmed exoplanet* ● *Candidate exoplanet*

Black areas are regions TESS has not yet imaged

Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite *(TESS)*

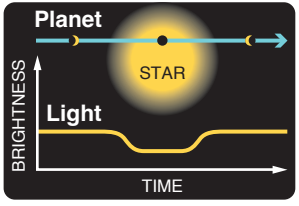
Four cameras: Scan area of space 400 times larger than that covered by NASA's previous exoplanet-hunting ***Kepler*** satellite



Large Magellanic Cloud: Dwarf satellite galaxy of Milky Way – **163,000 light-years** away

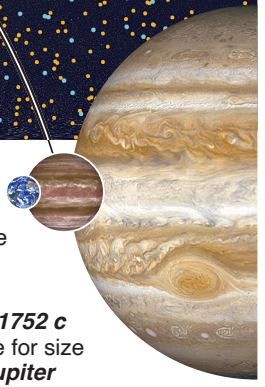
Plane of Milky Way

FINDING EXOPLANETS
TESS detects tiny changes in brightness caused by transit of planets across face of stars



WHAT IS EXOPLANET?
Any planet beyond our solar system. Scientists believe there are billions of them – some with life

NEW EXOPLANETS
Since above image was created, among newest discoveries is ***TOI-1752 c*** – ***Neptune***-like planet, shown here for size comparison between ***Earth*** and ***Jupiter***



Source: BBC Sky at Night Magazine, NASA, MIT Pictures: NASA/MIT/TESS and Veselin Kostov (University of Maryland College Park) © GRAPHIC NEWS