10th- 16th February 2020

Panda twins at Berlin Zoo

Berlin Zoo's panda twins, nicknamed "Pit" and "Paule", have made their public debut in a specially prepared cub friendly glass-enclosed space. Their keepers have removed any dangerous obstacles and filled in a water basin to keep the twins safe. Their mother, Meng Meng, kept a close eye on her cubs during their first outing, pulling them down from any heights she considered too dangerous. The two cuddly cubs were the first pandas to be born in a German zoo and, whilst they are on loan from China, the public will be able to go and see the whole family. Five-month-old males, Meng Xiang and Meng Yuan, whose names mean "long-awaited dream" and "dream come true", seem to have enjoyed being centre of attention climbing over boulders and tumbling around for visitors.



Pictured: The Panda twins at Berlin Zoo taken from the zoo's Twitter page.

Space "hotel" planned for 2024



Pictured: The International Space Station taken from their Twitter page.

NASA have announced that it has selected a company to build a private hotel on board the International Space Station (ISS). The new additions to the ISS will include a crew habitat that will serve as a home for future space tourists. It will also have a research and manufacturing facility and a large-windowed Earth observatory. Axiom, the company who were chosen, hopes the segment could one day serve as a self-contained space station that could replace the ISS when it is decommissioned. NASA tweeted "A big step forward in opening the @Space Station to commercial opportunities: a new element for the station will be developed and built by a company based in Texas. We've selected @Axiom Space of Houston to provide at least one habitable commercial module".

18-metre-tall walking robot!



Pictured: A giant statue of Gundam taken by Chad Kainz.

Japan is celebrating 40 years of Gundam, one of the longest running series of anime, with a massive moving RX-78-2 robot, set to be revealed this October. Gundam Factory Yokohama announced it is constructing an 18-metre-tall, 25ton moving robot which will be displayed at the port of Yokohama. The robot will be fully articulated, including hands, fingers and thumbs, using a combination of electric and hydraulic actuators, achieving "Gundam-like movement" with its 24 degrees of freedom. It will be the most advanced full-sized Gundam ever built. The robot's hands alone stand at 2m tall and weigh around 200kg and the engineering challenge of making it work is enormous.

Would you like to see a giant moving robot?

Your thoughts on the news...







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