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The  
Hunt  
for  
Planets

# Better Than Earth

"Superhabitable" worlds  
may be common in our  
galaxy, making ideal homes  
for extraterrestrial life

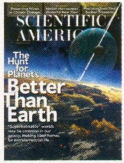


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Alien life could exist not only on Earth-like planets but also on worlds quite different from our own. The misty world here is an Earth-moon of a gas-giant planet, which lurks in the background, accompanied by a smaller, lifeless moon. Light, heat and tidal forces from the giant planet could all sculpt the cloudy moon into a place even more hospitable for life than Earth. Illustration by Ron Miller.

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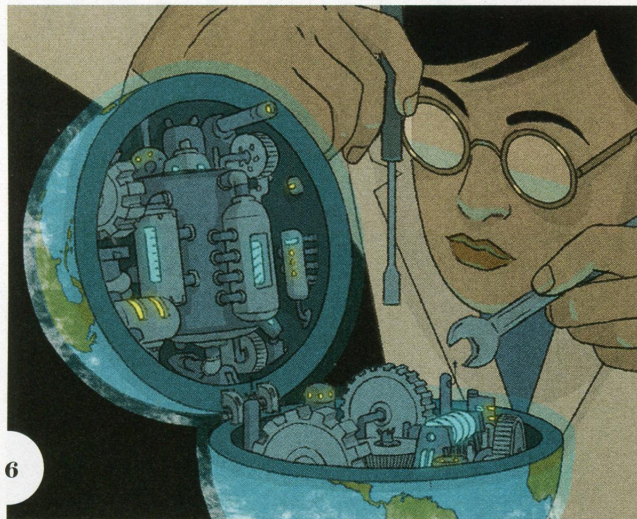
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*Scientific American* presents its annual gadget guide. Check out our favorites, including a smart motorcycle helmet and customized earbuds, from the past year. Go to [www.ScientificAmerican.com/jan2015/gadget](http://www.ScientificAmerican.com/jan2015/gadget)



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