



# LASER WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## *Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams Head Home After Nine Months in Orbit*

*Two NASA astronauts, Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, have finally begun their journey back to Earth after spending more than nine months aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Originally scheduled for an eight-day mission to test Boeing's Starliner spacecraft, their return was delayed due to technical issues with the spacecraft, including helium leaks, malfunctioning thrusters, and a faulty propellant valve.*

*Despite the challenges, Wilmore and Williams made the most of their extended stay, conducting spacewalks, participating in scientific experiments, and even assisting with repairs onboard the ISS. Their return was made possible by a SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft, which arrived at the ISS in September with two empty seats for their journey home.*

*The astronauts' return was initially planned for Wednesday, but favourable weather conditions allowed NASA to bring their homecoming forward by one day. They are expected to splash down off the coast of Florida after a 17-hour journey, marking the end of their unexpected but remarkable mission.*

*The extended mission is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of human explorers.*

*Despite facing unforeseen challenges, they remained committed to their work and maintained a positive outlook, with Williams even describing the ISS as her "happy place."*

*This mission also highlights the importance of collaboration in space exploration. While Boeing's Starliner faced setbacks, SpaceX's Crew Dragon stepped in to ensure the astronauts' safe return. This spirit of cooperation between agencies and private companies is crucial for the future of space exploration. Their story serves as a reminder that even in the vastness of space, humanity's determination and ingenuity can overcome any obstacle.*



Section written by: Elyazia Alghool

*The Cube team is expanding their knowledge in several areas, focusing mainly on PCBs while they await project approval. At the same time, they are honing their C++ programming skills a member has taken the initiative in learning 3D printing so that they are prepared for the next stages of their project.*

*The Laser Harp team are making steady progress with the prototype. The individual components have been precision laser-cut from plywood and are set to be assembled this week. The team will start designing the final frame and assemble the laser. Research is being conducted into soundboards and mixers to expand the range of sound options available when playing, allowing for greater versatility and creativity in the final instrument.*



## **Upcoming Events:**

*LASER Team photos: Wednesday 26th of March*

*Materials Selection and Processes Workshop:  
Wednesday, Week 11 Date TBC*

*LASER Easter Painting: Wednesday 26th of March,  
2pm*

*LASER Enterprise Talk: Talk from an Entrepreneur,  
CTO for Avioxx*

*Skyrora Trip: Wednesday 23rd of April, Glasgow,  
Factory Visit 9am - 1/2pm, Lunch is provided*

***If I have a thousand ideas and only one turns out to be good, I am satisfied' - Alfred Nobel***