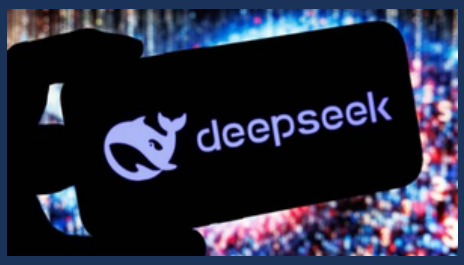
LASER WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Chinese AI company DeepSeek shocked the tech world by surpassing ChatGPT as the most downloaded app on Apple's iPhone app store. Even more surprising, DeepSeek built its latest AI model with just $6 million, a fraction of what U.S. companies spend. This breakthrough came despite U.S. restrictions on advanced AI chips, proving that heavy regulations don't always stop innovation—they can push it elsewhere.

The space industry faces a similar challenge. Strict U.S. export regulations, like the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), limit American companies from collaborating globally. Meanwhile, international competitors, such as Finland's ICEYE, are advancing without these restrictions. If the U.S. doesn't find a balance between security and innovation, it risks losing leadership in both AI and space technology.

DeepSeek's success despite restrictions mirrors the challenges in space tech—too many limits can slow progress. How do you think regulations impact the future of space exploration?



Section written by: Elyazia Alghool

Upcoming Events

National Student Space Conference 2025: Leicester, LE2 6BF, Saturday 1st of March and Sunday 2nd of March
Get tickets before 25th of February 2025!

Skyrora Trip: Mid March TBC

3D Printing workshop: More details coming soon

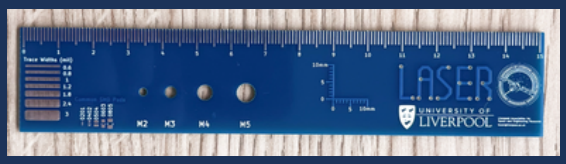
Reminder: Up to 50% off Union Brew Food and Drink at the end of each day!

LASER Merch is now available to order on the website!

Limited Edition Hoodies available in sizes L - XXXL ~~£40~~ £25 38% Discount
All hoodies include a free ruler
One ruler alone is £2

Back of hoodie

Front of hoodie



Ruler

The Rover team are working hard on finalising the design, with Tashu focusing on creating the CAD models. The software team has been investing time in the website for diagnostic data display, while Peter has been busy gathering materials for the Rover chassis and buoy.

Section written by: Peter B. Swift

The Unity Rise rocketry team has been making great strides in refining the Critical Design Review report, with plans to complete it in the next two weeks. Alongside this, they have also been printing prototype parts and completing tests to further enhance their designs. We wish all teams the best of luck as they continue pushing boundaries and making incredible progress.

'Who needs drugs when you have engineering' - Stuff made here