Curious robots could search for intelligent life on distant planets

A spaceship descends with a thunderous roar and deposits a futuristic probe before taking off again. The Extraterrestrial Vegetation Evaluator (EVE) soon activates and begins flying around, scanning the barren surface for signs of life. ROBOTS ON MARS: Mars Science Laboratory mission page

Scientists today can only dream of having a robotic explorer like EVE from the Disney/Pixar film WALL-E. But some researchers are working on...

...on Mars, "Curiosity in itself is not present in any of our machine systems" Fink said, remarking...

...Fink noted, "At Caltech, we are now at the point where we're implementing a test-bed outdoors to develop the software to demonstrate this in action." The outdoors test would...

...distant worlds. "The orbiter gives you global perspective, the aerial platform a more regional perspective, and that helps determine where to deploy ground assets in a targeted fashion" said Wolfgang Fink...

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