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## Space Technology Lands on Earth

An interview with Professor Gordon Osinski  
Planetary Geologist, Western University

### How does space science affect us on Earth?

Earth and planetary sciences are so broad in scope. Whether it be searching for life in the solar system, in the universe, understanding the origin and evolution of life on Earth, how even the Earth formed. And planetary science in particular, is one of those fields where you can turn on a TV each day and there's something new and exciting. We're finding more and more evidence that Mars is more Earth-like than we ever believed. There's water on the moon. The oldest rocks on Earth are way older than we expected, and there were oceans on Earth 4.4 billion years ago.

### What have you discovered about our planet?

In order to understand our own planet, how we got here, and what our future is, you really have to put Earth in the context of the solar system. So one of the big drivers that I look for, is kind of, what/how did life originate on Earth? One of the other big things that I do, and especially in partnering with companies like MDA, is really trying to bring space technologies back to Earth. Designing something for space is one of the most technologically challenging things you can ever do. Some of these technologies, for example that are on the Curiosity Rover, we're now taking out into the field and remote regions on Earth and learning about our own planet, too. And so that translation of knowledge from space to Earth is something that I firmly believe in, and is something that I try to incorporate into my research.