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Transit Survey seeks armchair astronomers



“凌日搜索計畫” 招募志願者在家中參與太空觀測

“行星獵人下一代凌日搜索計畫 (The Planet Hunters Next-Generation Transit Survey)” 正在招募志願者線上參與太空觀測，安坐家中就能當“天文學家”。該專案正在向公眾尋求幫助，查看五年來拍攝到的天空中最亮恒星的數位影像。

Queen's University is a key partner in the Next-Generation Transit Search, a **collaboration** between universities in Europe and South America focused on discovering **unknown** planets.

英國貝爾法斯特女王大學是“下一代凌日搜索計畫”的重要合作夥伴，這是歐洲和南美洲一些大學間的合作項目，致力於發現未知的行星。

The team have collected data on the light levels of thousands of stars. They're looking for the moment when a star gets just slightly **dimmer**, which may indicate that a planet has temporarily **blocked** the light, known as a '**transit**'.

研究小組已經收集了成千上萬顆恒星的光照水準資料。他們正在尋找恒星稍微變暗的時刻，這可能表明有一顆行星暫時擋住了恒星的光，被稱作“凌日現象”。

Computers have helped to find most of the relevant transits, but they can't be 100% **accurate**. Scientists are calling on volunteers to help **sift through** data looking for **patterns** that might just possibly indicate an **undiscovered** world.

電腦已經幫助人們找到了大多數相關的凌日現象，但還做不到百分百準確。科學家呼籲志願者說明篩選資料，尋找可能預示有未知世界存在的固定模式。

1. 詞彙表

collaboration	合作項目
unknown	未知的
dimmer	更暗的
blocked	阻擋了
transit	(天文現象) 凌
accurate	準確，精確
sift through	篩選
patterns	模式
undiscovered	未被發現的

2. 閱讀理解：請在讀完上文後，回答下列問題。（答案見下頁）

1. True or false? *Computers have accurately found all the relevant transits.*
2. What is the Next-Generation Transit Search focused on?
3. What data have the team collected?
4. What is the moment the team are looking for?

3. 答案

1. True or false? *Computers have accurately found all the relevant transits.*

False. Computers have helped to find most of them, but they can't be 100% accurate.

2. What is the Next-Generation Transit Search focused on?

It is focused on discovering unknown planets.

3. What data have the team collected?

The team have collected data on the light levels of thousands of stars.

4. What is the moment the team are looking for?

They're looking for the moment when a star gets just slightly dimmer, which may indicate that a planet has temporarily blocked the light, known as a 'transit'.