



NASA Discovers 20,000 MPH Winds on Extreme Alien Planet

Description

Scientists found strong winds on a gas giant planet called WASP-127b. This planet is more than 500 light years away from Earth. The winds move very fast—up to 33,000 kilometers (20,000 miles) per hour. This makes them the fastest winds known on any planet.

Researchers studied light reflected from WASP-127b. They found signals showing water and carbon dioxide. These signals suggest there are very fast winds around the planet's middle. Lisa Nortmann, the study's lead author, explained that part of the atmosphere moves toward us quickly, while another part moves away at the same speed.

WASP-127b is bigger than Jupiter, but it is lighter—only 16% of Jupiter's mass. One side of the planet is very hot, over 1,000 degrees Celsius (1,832 degrees Fahrenheit). The other side is very cold and dark.

The team also found carbon monoxide gas in expected amounts. This helps scientists understand how gas giant planets form. These findings can teach us more about our own Solar System.

This research was published in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL1

Date Created

2025/01/23

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