



## Elon Musk

### ROCKET MAN

First he made a fortune with the Internet start-up PayPal greasing the wheels of e-commerce. Then he co-founded Tesla Motors, maker of the first electric sports car, and helped launch the alternative-energy provider SolarCity. But entrepreneur extraordinaire Elon Musk was just getting warmed up. Musk's company SpaceX made history in May 2012 as the first private company to deliver a payload to the International Space Station. SpaceX has a multiyear, dozen-mission contract with NASA, a growing list of international clients and plans to fly to the moon. Maybe Musk's ambition to send humans to explore Mars within the next two decades, a goal that struck skeptics as pie in the sky, isn't so crazy after all.



## Avi Loeb

### COSMICDAWN EXPLORER

It's when theory meets evidence that the rubber meets the road, in the view of Harvard astrophysicist Avi Loeb. Until now, our understanding has been mostly theoretical about how the Dark Age of the early universe gave way to the cosmic dawn of the first stars and galaxies. Loeb, in fact, was among the first theorists to explore this frontier. But a new generation of telescopes promises to produce a flood of data for theorists to consider. Of course, some work will remain speculative. The Milky Way is on a collision course with Andromeda galaxy, and Loeb has run computer simulations of the outcome. In 5 billion years, we'll know if he's right.

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