Neptune has a new moon
The Hubble telescope has spotted a 14th moon orbiting Neptune. It was probably harder to see because it is less than 20 kilometres (12 miles) in diameter and it’s also 120 million times less bright than the faintest star visible to the naked eye. The moon—currently designated S/2004 N 1—was found by SETI planetary astronomer Mark Showalter who noticed the tiny dot on 1 July 2003.

Gorilla Glass shrinks
Theshrinkingof Gorilla Glass (often used on smartphones) has been measured for the first time. Technicians at Corning, where the material is made, observed a sheet of the glass for 18 months. In the first ten days the glass’s width and length decreased by five micrometres, and over 18 months, it shrank by another five micrometres. It won’t damage your phone, but the shrinkage is interesting. Atoms of sodium and potassium, which help make the glass robust, initially move around as if in liquid form until they find an energetically more favourable position and slow down.

IRIS has opened its door
NASA’s Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph (IRIS) opened the door to its UV telescope for the first time since the observatory launched in June this year. The telescope door is the white circular region on the left. The telescope will be trained on a small section of the Sun’s chromosphere to examine the interface between the surface and corona and the interplay of energy between the two. The spacecraft’s systems will undergo observational tests and check to ensure everything is working properly before going into full operation by 26 August.

MIT is reflecting on the perfect mirror
MIT scientists have created a reflecting device that can fully reflect all the light shone on it—which is great news for communications technologies. The photonic crystal mirror is made of silicon nitride punctuated with super-tiny holes (smaller than the wavelength of visible light). The team found that when a specific frequency of red light was shone at a 36-degree angle to the surface of this crystal, 100 per cent of the light was reflected back because the light waves trying to enter the holes collided and cancelled each other out.

The Nexus 7 is the highest-res tablet
Google’s Nexus 7 from Asus has a higher-resolution display than any other tablet today—even the iPad mini—with a 1,920 x 1,200 display and 323 pixels per inch. This device can boast twice as many pixels per inch as Apple’s smaller iPad sibling. With better resolution and more power generally, this tablet could be the one to really dethrone the iPad dynasty.