

# Best of Last Week – Plane with no moving parts, total body scanner and benefits of eating oranges, greens and berries

November 26 2018, by Bob Yirka

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Undistorted camera footage from flight 9, with position and energy from camera tracking annotated. Sped up 2x. Credit: Steven Barrett

It was a good week for technology as a team at MIT demonstrated [the first-ever plane with no moving parts](#)—it was powered by an ionic wind.

Also, another team at MIT [explained the plummeting cost of solar power](#)—they found it was due to a mixture of policy initiatives and advances in technology. The result has been a 99 percent drop in cost over the past 40 years. And a team at Duke University reported on the steps they are taking to create [a 'robo-nose' that they hope will give K-9 officers a break](#)—trained dogs do a good job, but they get tired; a robot with living mouse cells in its snout might offer some relief. Also, a team at Stanford University announced that they had developed [a crowdsourcing platform for imitation learning in robotics](#)—called RoboTurk, it allows AI machines to use help from large groups of people online. And a team at Shree Devi Institute of Technology reported [exploring the resurrection of consciousness using AI](#)—it was all part of an effort to allow users to "communicate" with deceased loved ones.

In space news, a team with [members](#) from Radboud University and Goethe University [created a virtual reality simulation of Sagittarius A\\*](#)—the supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way. And an international team of researchers reported [the impending gamma ray burst of a doomed star in the Milky Way galaxy](#). If it happens, it would be the first observed in the Milky Way.

In other news, a team with members from Cyprus University of Technology, UCL, the University of Alabama and Boston University conducted [an investigation of state-sponsored trolls](#)—they found most of them were from Russia and Iran. Also, a team with members from USC, UIH and the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the Zhongshan Hospital in Shanghai [showed off human images from the world's first total-body scanner](#)—it combines PET and CT scanning to create 3-D images of a patient.

And finally, if you are one of the millions of men around the world looking for a relatively easy way to improve your memory, you might want to check out the results of a study led by Changzheng Yuan, of the

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health—the group found that [consuming orange juice, leafy greens and berries may be tied to decreased memory loss in men.](#)

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