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THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPACE TECH IS HERE AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE US TO PLACES WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

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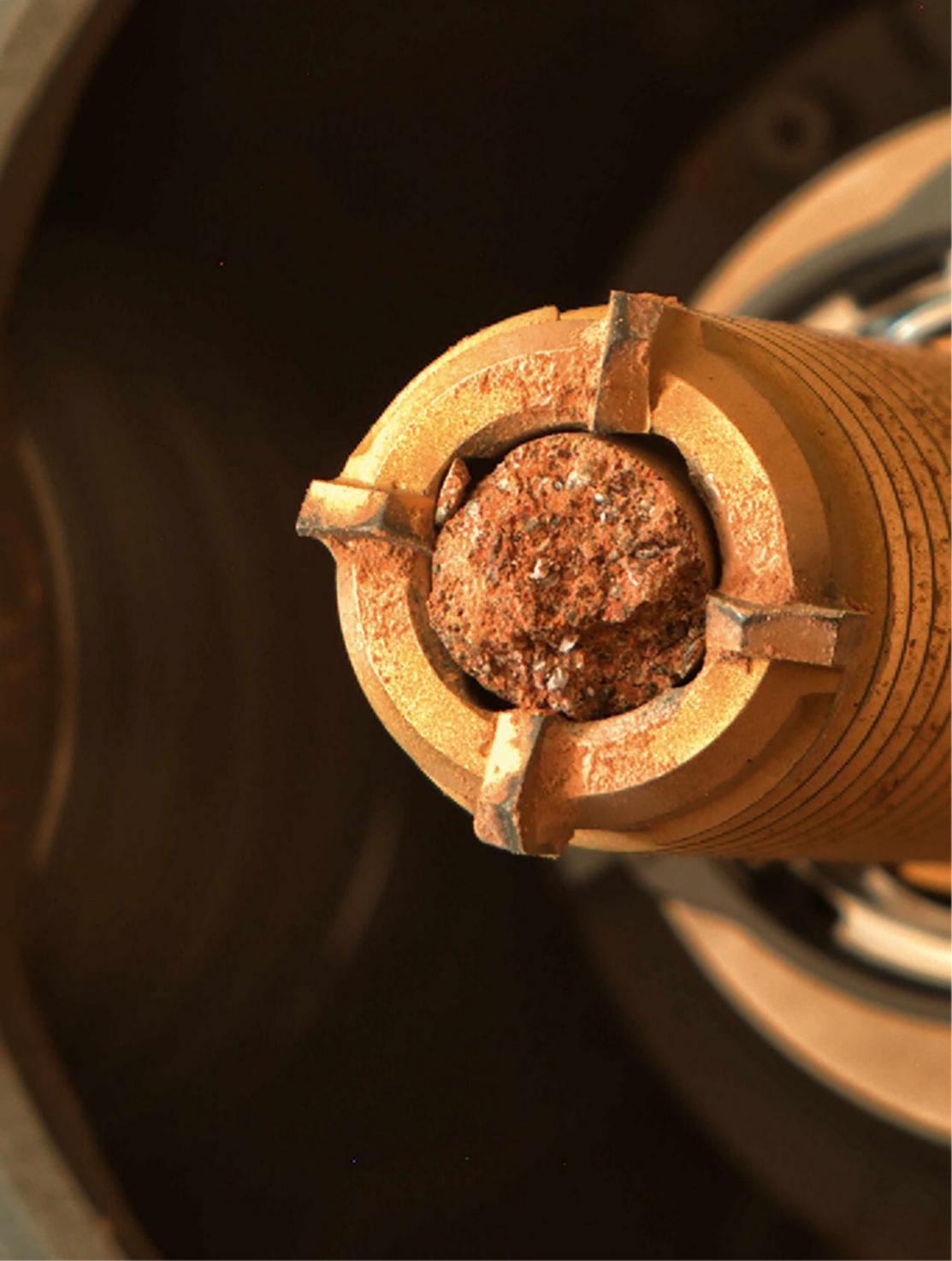
belly fat like the ads say

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PERSEVERANCE ROVER, MARS

This sedimentary rock sample, which has been collected by NASA's Perseverance Rover from the surface of Mars, could contain possible evidence of ancient Martian life, claims Arizona State University's Prof Meenakshi Wadhwa, chief scientist for the Mars Sample Return programme.

The sample, which is barely the size of a little finger, is the 10th collected by the rover. It is pictured here in the late-afternoon Martian sunlight.

The joint venture, by NASA and ESA, will see the Martian rock samples stored in metal cylinders. They will be retrieved and brought back to Earth in the early 2030s, when they can undergo in-depth analysis.

Perseverance arrived in February 2021 at the Jezero Crater, the likely site of an ancient river delta from billions of years ago, with the first rock sample collected in September 2021.

NASA has announced that it is also launching two mini helicopters to Mars as a backup, in case Perseverance needs help loading the samples onto the return rocket.

NASA/JPL-CALTECH

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