

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



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DINKINESH AND SELAM





On Nov. 1, 2023, NASA's Lucy spacecraft flew by the asteroid Dinkinesh, poised to break records by imaging the smallest main belt asteroid ever visited by a spacecraft. Lucy discovered that small Dinkinesh not only has a tiny moon, which has been named Selam, but that its moon is a contact binary—it is made of two small objects touching each other. Selam is the first known contact-binary satellite.

Image: NASA/Goddard/SwRI/John Hopkins APL