

FIRST CONTACT

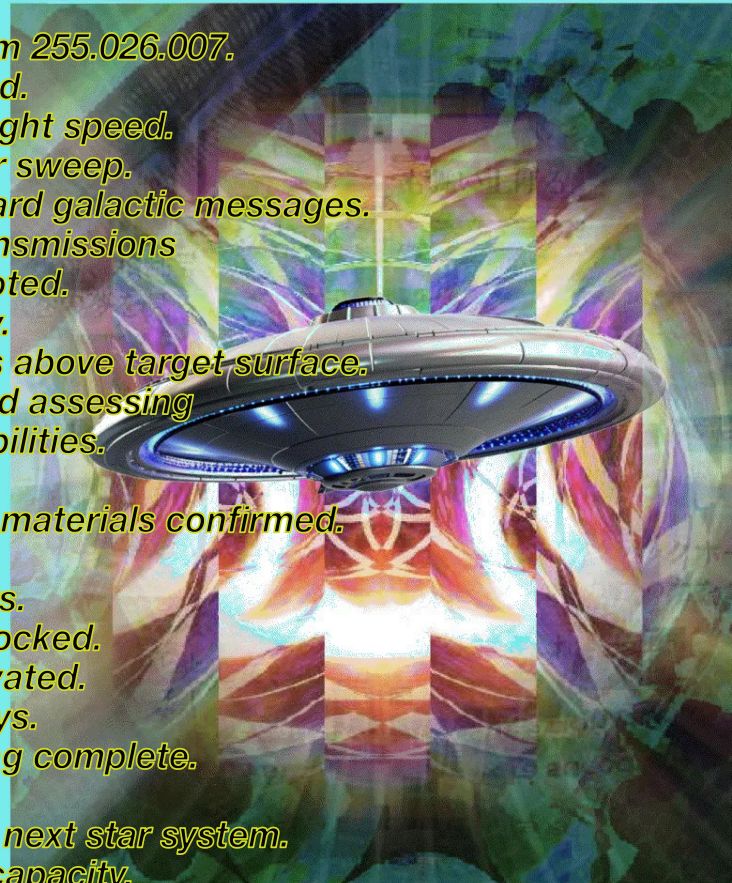
A Scenario for Critical Reflection

Many science fiction works have been written about alien contact with earth. Here's how a typical scenario goes –

*Approaching System 255.026.007.
Type H star detected.
Decelerating to .2 light speed.
Initiating full sensor sweep.
Transmitting standard galactic messages.
High-frequency transmissions
from third planet noted.
Adjusting trajectory.
Reversing thrusters above target surface.
Scanning planet and assessing
alien defense capabilities.
Technology inferior.
Some valuable raw materials confirmed.*

*Powering up masers.
Forward weapons locked.
All life forms inactivated.
Preparing cargo bays.
Merchandise loading complete.*

*Set coordinates for next star system.
Storage bays 23% capacity.*



Questions to Consider

- (1) How likely is this scenario?
- (2) What, if any, raw materials on planet Earth are unique?
- (3) Which scenario is more likely: creatures from outer space will invade or we'll do a wham-bam job of destroying ourselves?

- T Newfields

Beg.: 1996 Shizuoka ☆ Fin.: 2024 Shizuoka