## Is a New Moon News?



This tiny speck is the 60th satellite found to circle Saturn. It was spotted by the Cassini spacecraft on May 30, 2007.
NASA / JPL / Space Science Institute
Here's a question a few of us have been wondering: when do discoveries stop becoming news? We once dutifully reported every extrasolar planet discovery as it was made. After all, finding worlds beyond our solar system is the stuff of science-fiction dreams. But then the number of exoplanets crossed 50, then 100, then 200, and is now at 246 . A similar argument can be made for Martian and lunar meteorites. At some point - who knows exactly when - they stopped becoming "news."

Now NASA is reporting that Cassini spotted another moon around Saturn. That brings Saturn's family of satellites to 60. It currently has a temporary designation, S/2007 S4, but it will most likely earn one of those hard-to-pronounce names that all the new Saturnian satellites receive. If you want to see it move, NASA posted a cool animation showing the discovery.

The find, located inside the ring plane, doesn't place Saturn higher in the standings; Jupiter is still king with 63 satellites. But I suspect that won't last for long. Cassini is on patrol and there isn't a spacecraft in the hunt around Jupiter.

We've compiled the long list of moons for all the planets (and dwarf planets). Check it out, but see how many of them you know (or can pronounce) before clicking on the link.

So do you think this discovery is newsworthy? When will satellite discoveries become boring (if they aren't already)? Let us know what you think below.

