

Is There Life Out There Assembly?

From childhood, I have always enjoyed science fiction, both in books and on film. A regular feature of the genre is the first contact scenario, when humanity meets with alien life. Sometimes it goes well, as in many *Star Trek* episodes; sometimes badly, as in the film *Alien* and the ensuing franchise. Sometimes it is mysterious, like *2001 a Space Odyssey*. Sometimes it is heartwarming, like *ET*. This question of alien life seems to obsess us. Do aliens exist? There is so much space out there that it seems impossible that life has not

probably emerge very frequently in the universe. There are trillions of planets in just our

suggest that there is a possibility that we will soon hear news of a scientific paper, revealing that the James Webb Space Telescope has done something incredible – proved that we are not alone in the universe. If there is life out there on an exoplanet, it is a long way away. And we don't know if the life is bacteria, or something more technologically developed. Of course, we would immediately train all our resources on the planet to see if we can link the biosignature with something called a technosignature – emissions of radio waves or other signals of an advanced civilisation.

To know we are not alone would be incredible in itself