

# Small Asteroid (2017 EA) Passes Within Geo Orbit 6 Hours After Discovery



*The Catalina Sky Survey 0.7-meter Schmidt discovered 2017 EA about 6 ½ hours prior to closest approach to Earth.*



*The 2.4-meter telescope at Magdalena Ridge Observatory provided follow-up astrometric observations within an hour*

*At point of Closest Approach over the eastern Pacific Ocean*



The Planetary Defense Coordination Office (PDCO) reports that a near-Earth asteroid, provisionally designated 2017 EA, passed within the geosynchronous satellite ring and within 12,830 km (7,970 miles) of the Earth's surface at 9:05 EST on 2 March 2017. Moments after its close approach to the Earth, 2017 EA was no longer observable via Earth-based assets due to its passage into the daytime sky. This asteroid is probably no more than a few meters across. If it were larger and had any potential for impact, the PDCO would have activated the provisions of NPD 8740, "Notification and Communications Regarding Potential Near-Earth Object Threats" through NASA leadership for providing the White House and other government agencies information on the potential impact threat prior to notification of international partners and public release to the media.

*View from over the Earth's north pole*

