

Re: 4 October 1957

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.space.history/2007-10/msg00023.html>

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 - *Date:* Tue, 02 Oct 2007 05:21:44 -0700
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With computers, there are ways to get more computing power next year with the same budget as this year.

There are no ways to get a little bit further into orbit next year with the same amount of money as this year, because you're either in orbit or you're not. But there may be ways to get to the planets in 100 years with the same amount of money it takes to get to orbit this year. I am thinking about 'punctuated equilibrium' rather than steady improvement. I think bringing down the cost of space travel will require a Next Big Thing. Something as dramatically different as the steam engine or the telegraph.

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