A asteroid passing extremely close to the Earth was discovered and observed within very short period in early September.

- 2016RB1 was discovered 5 Sept 2016 by the Catalina Sky Survey, funded by NASA’s Near-Earth Object Observations Program.
- Two days later, the asteroid passed south of Earth at a distance comparable to the orbit of geosynchronous satellites.
- This asteroid is among the smallest observable in near-Earth space and is representative of both the Earth-impacting population and the subset of asteroids that may be accessible to spacecraft exploration.
- As it passed close to the Earth, “Target-of-opportunity” observations were conducted from:
  - Lowell Observatory’s Discovery Channel Telescope (DCT) – AZ
  - NASA’s Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) – HI
  - Center for Solar System Studies (CSSS) - CA

Spectral data constrain albedo and composition. The inferred size of object is 3-9m with a metal-rich composition.