Future Space

Where are we going?

Philip Stooke

What can we expect to see next in space?

Pat Rawlings

Apollo went to the Moon, then we built a space station, but where are we going now?



Will we go anywhere?

Space is expensive.

Can we afford to do anything?

Especially today?



Will we go anywhere?

Space is expensive.

Can we afford to do anything?

But in fact space is not so expensive.



Will we go anywhere?

Space is expensive.

Can we afford to do anything?

Less than 1% of the US Federal budget.



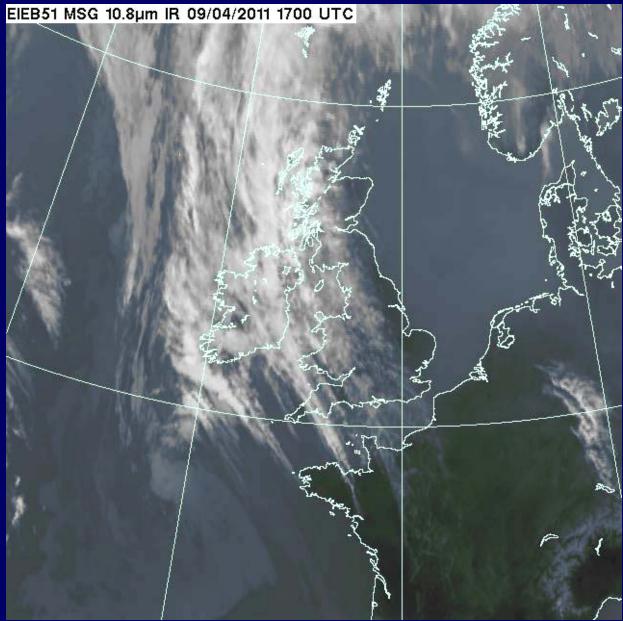
Space in the economy

We can't do without space.

Communication Navigation (GPS) Weather forecasting Environmental monitoring National Security

... all depend on satellites today.

Weather satellite image



© Copyright EUMETSAT/Met Office

Space in the economy

For satellites we need rockets...

Up to 80 launches happen every year around the world.

We can afford to use a few for space exploration!

Space is not going to go away.



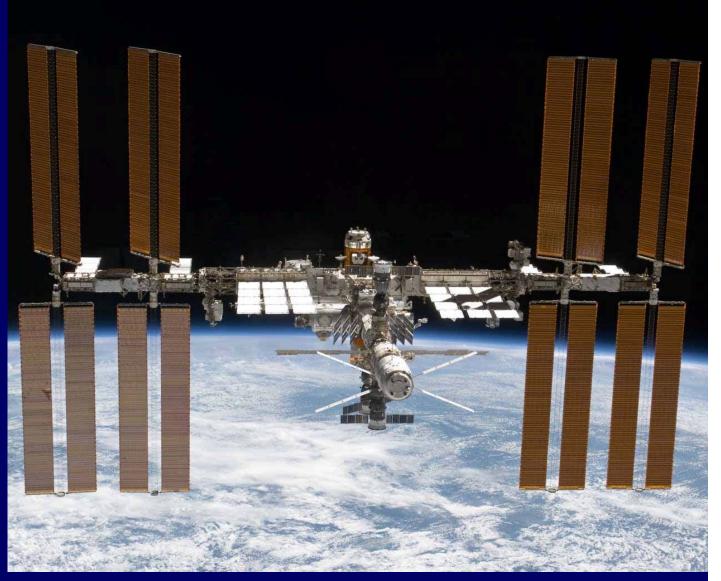
ESA/CNES/Arianespace-Service Optique CSG

Current situation

International Space Station.

Operated and supplied by Russia, Europe, Japan and USA until 2020 or later.

A big research laboratory.



Current situation



Retired! Last flight was in June 2011

What will replace it? Several options...



NASA

Future US crew launch vehicles

Space launch System (SLS):

a big new NASA rocket, still being designed.

Falcon rockets: developed privately by Space-X.

Existing Atlas and Delta rockets, modified to carry people?

SLS and Falcon 9



Future space activities?

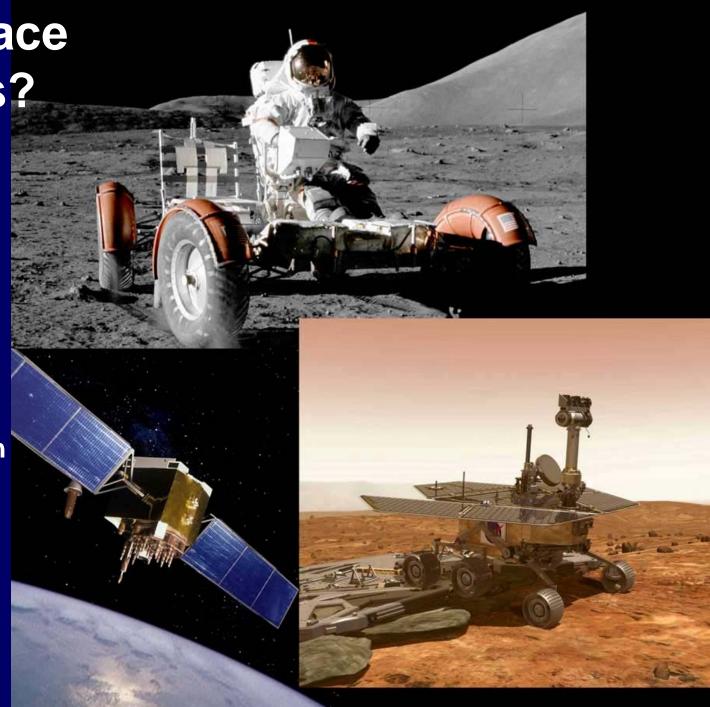
Which way will we go?

Business and space services

Human exploration

Robotic exploration

All of the above?



Future space activities

Return to the Moon?



President Bush's 'Vision for Space Exploration'

NASA's Project Constellation



Constellation lunar outpost

South pole of the Moon.

Nearpermanent sunlight for solar energy.

"Peaks of eternal light" (not quite eternal)

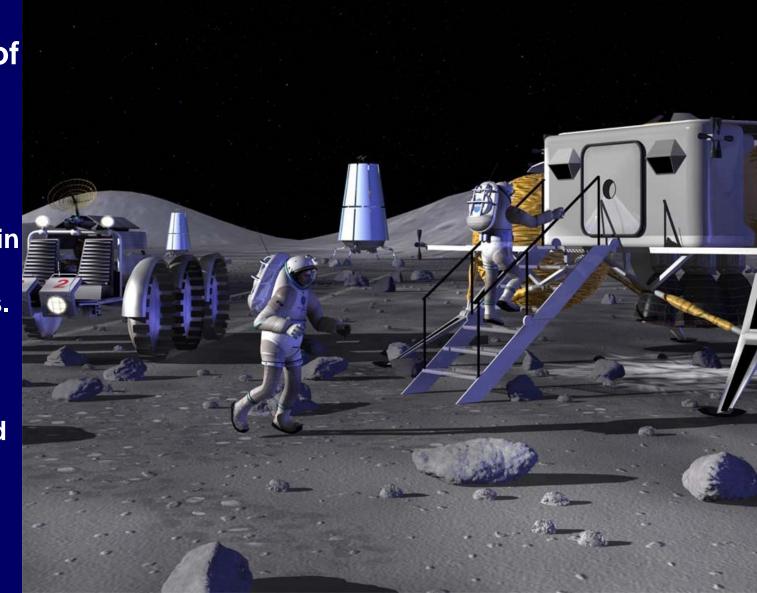


Constellation lunar outpost

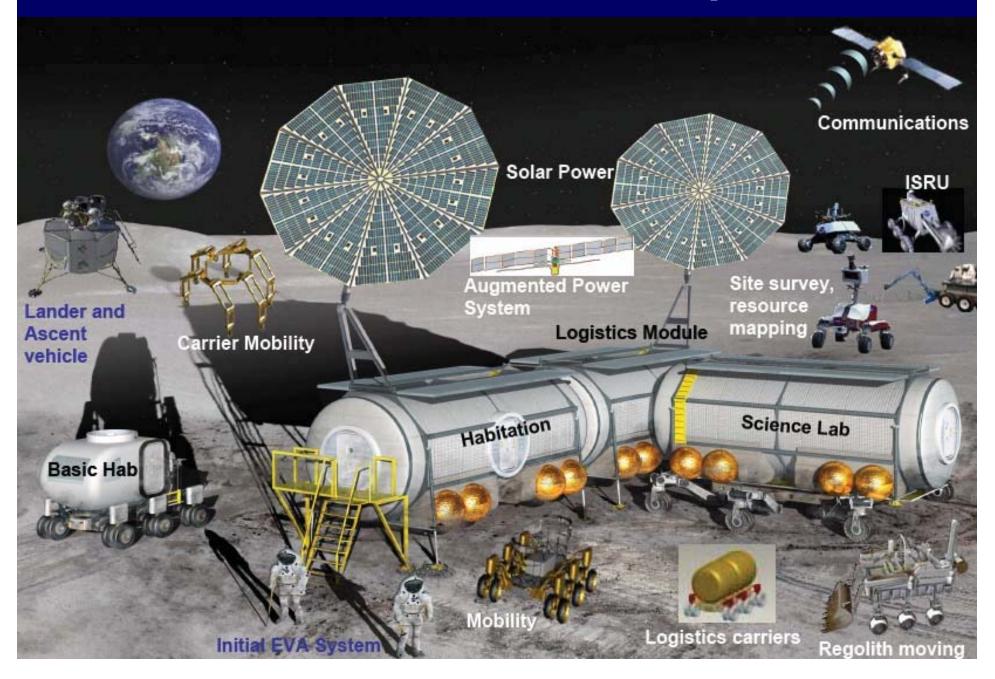
South pole of the Moon.

Water (as ice) in permanent polar shadows.

Resources for astronauts and for rocket fuel.



Constellation lunar outpost

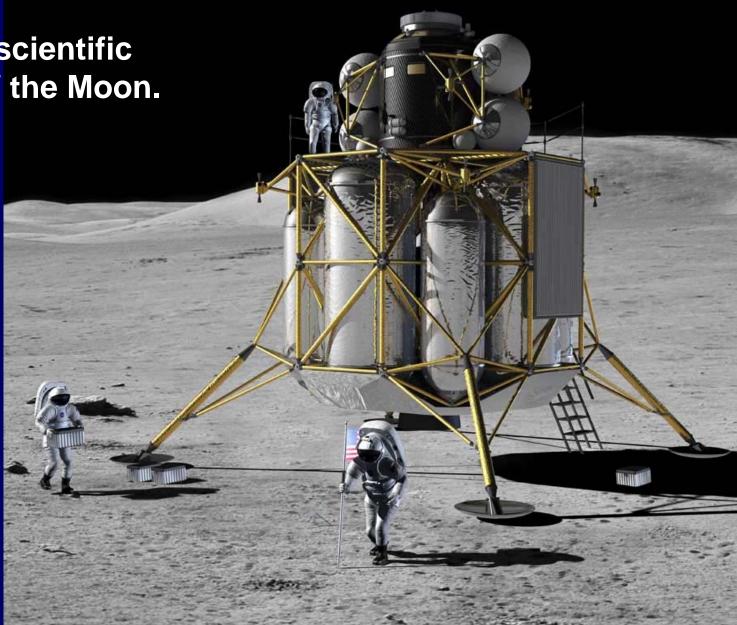


Constellation science sorties

Continue the scientific exploration of the Moon.

Youngest volcanic rocks, oldest impact basins, unusual features.

Apollo only scratched the surface.

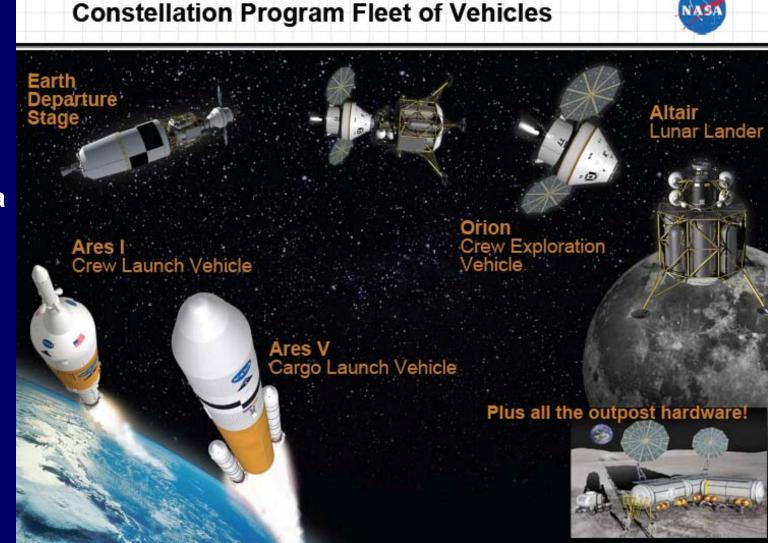


Constellation cancelled

Difficult economic times: lunar missions are too expensive.

Constellation needed rockets, a crew vehicle, a lunar lander and outpost hardware.

That's a lot of hardware!



Constellation cancelled

What if we only develop the rockets and crew vehicle?

Stepping Stones

Exploring a series of increasingly challenging destinations on the way to Mars...

Can we do anything with them?

Asteroids and the moons of Mars! 2023 Explore Mars from Deimos Deimos Scout

2019, 2023, 2025, 20

Humans Explore Asteroid 2008 EA9 and others

Explore the Moon's Far Side from Earth-Moon L₂ Point

Human Lunar Flyby

Asteroid Survey 20

2016

.2017 Asteroid Scout

2016 SLS Test Flight

nos photo courtesy of NASA-JPL, University of Arizona

Lockheed Martin

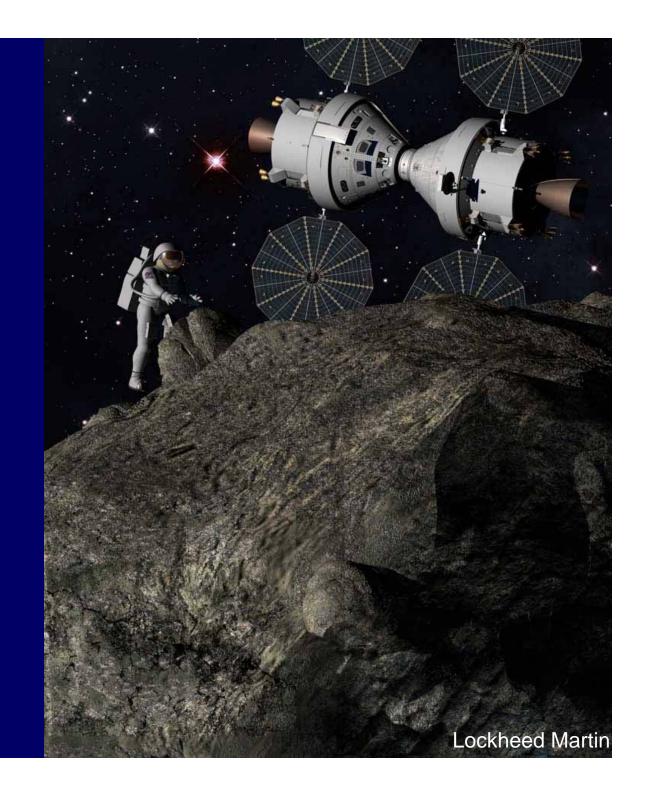
Asteroid missions

Some small asteroids come close to Earth.



Asteroid missions

Imagine just floating over to the asteroid to collect rock samples...

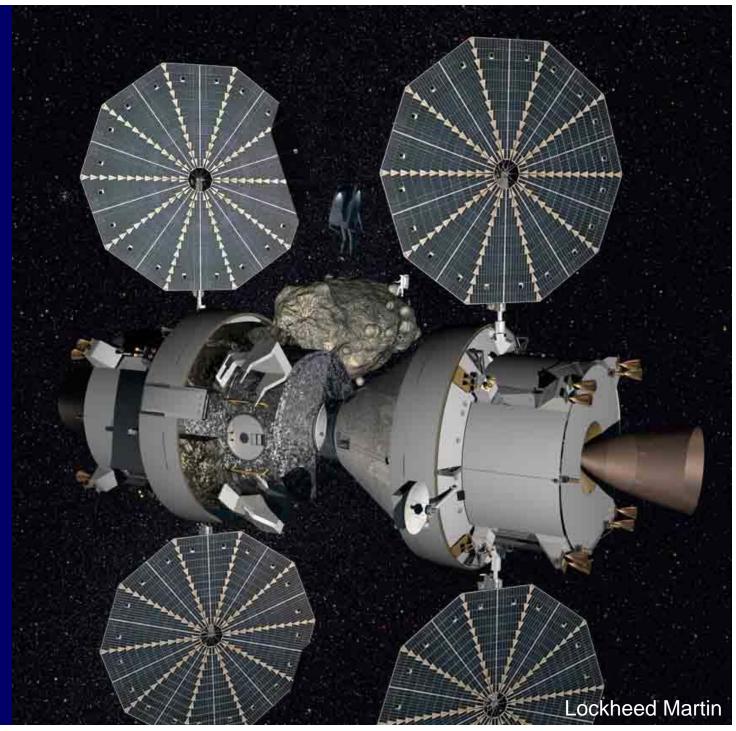


Dual Orions

Extra cargo space for months-long trips.

Some backup capability.

Eventually you could go as far as Mars...



Mars missions

So we get to Mars, but we didn't build a lander...

No problem! Mars has two little moons, like asteroids about 15 and 25 km across.



Phobos

Deimos



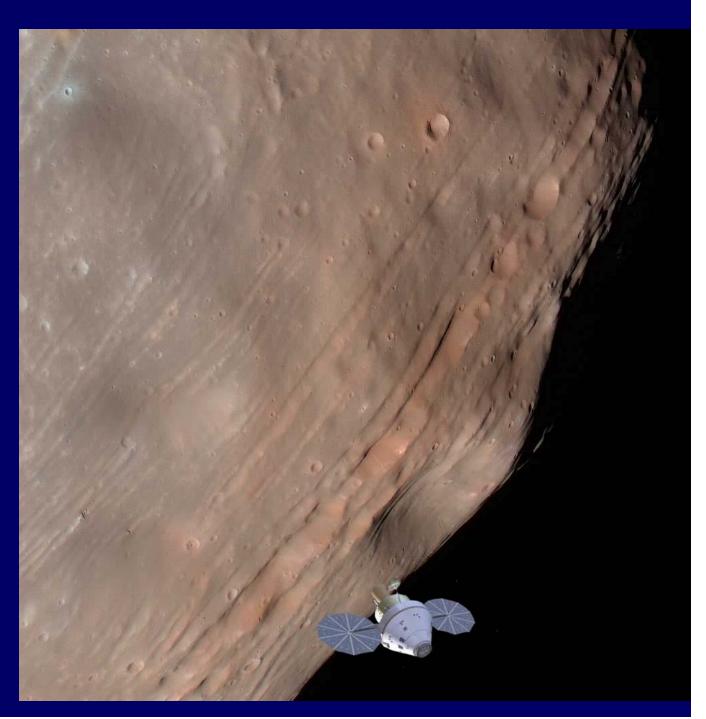
Phobos and Deimos

Cache supplies before crews arrive.

Remote operation of robots on Mars to collect rocks.

Rocks from Mars on these moons?

Meteorites from Mars are found on Earth. They passed the moons on the way here.



Mars

Mars is a more difficult goal.

When budgets allow it, a big lander could be built.

NASA has studied human missions to Mars.





The Human Exploration of Mars - Science Analysis Group

Their report is online: search for "MEPAG HEM-SAG 2008".







Long or short?

Because of the way the planets move, visits to Mars have to be short (a few weeks) or very long (500 days)

(not including the travel time).





HEM-SAG decided short trips were not worth the cost.

A Mars voyage would take three years:

8 months to get there, 18 months there, 8 months back.

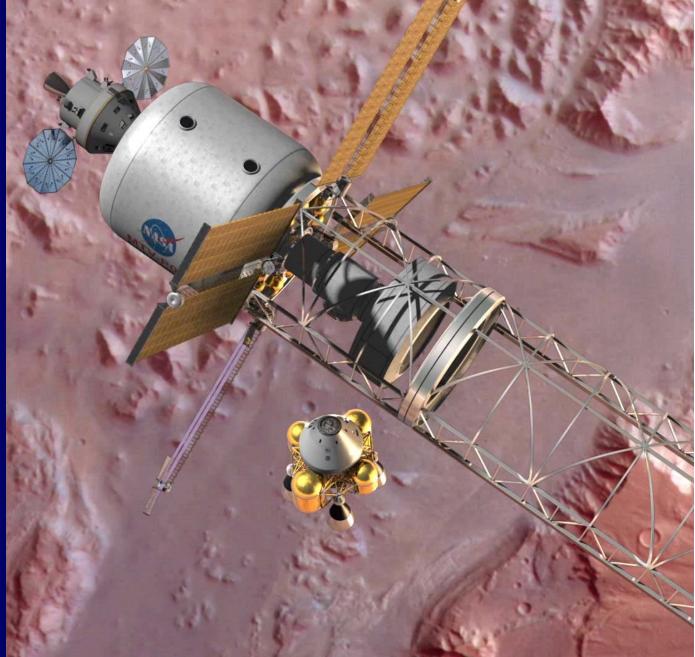


HEM-SAG

Send supplies first.

When safely landed on Mars, send the crew and spare supplies.

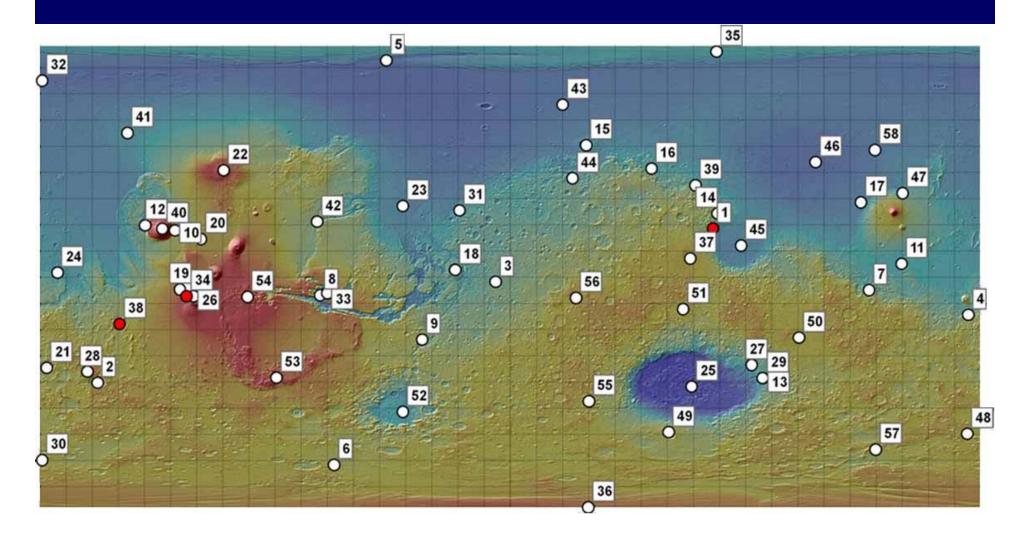
Problems? Use the spares as needed. But if all is well, those supplies support the next crew.



HEM-SAG

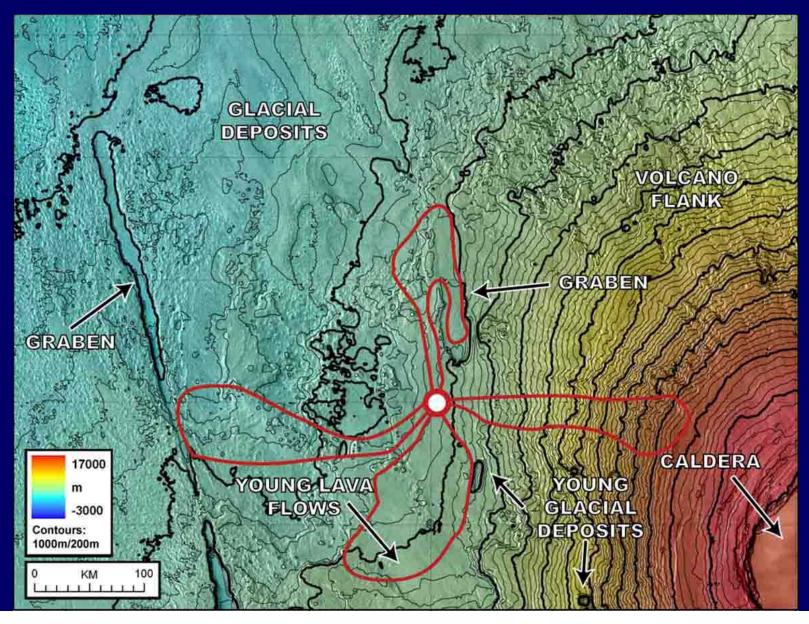
Surface operations: lots of targets!

Land in areas with maximum science value. Pressurized rovers allow long exploration traverses during the 500 days on Mars.



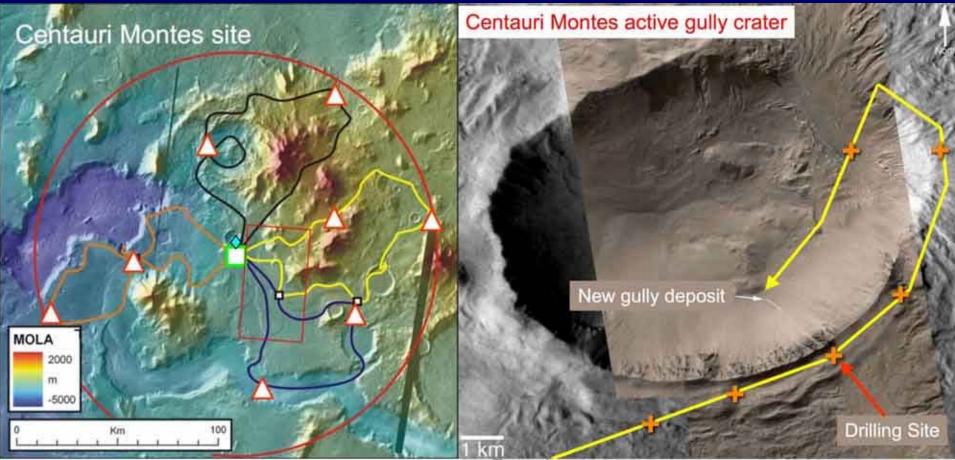


One target: glaciers on the side of a volcano

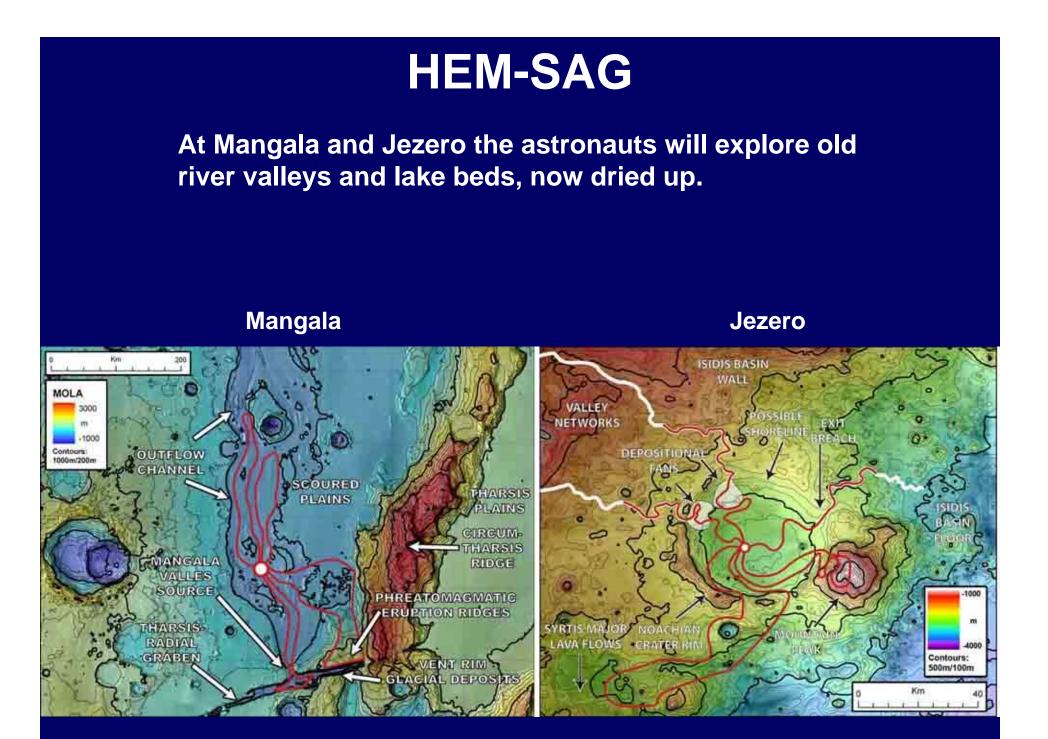




This gully may have had flowing water in the last decade. Astronauts will drill into the source region.



From base camp

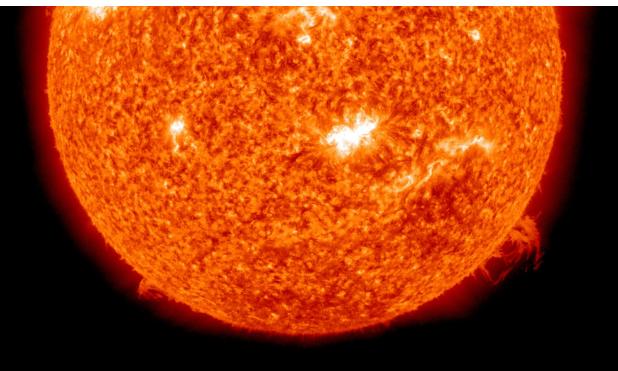


HEM-SAG

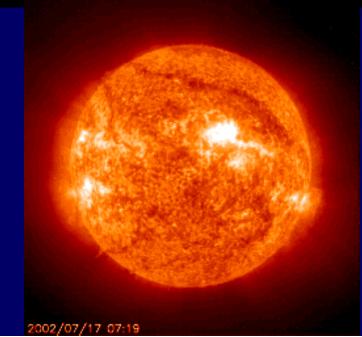
Biggest problem for deep space operations:

Radiation, especially high energy particles from solar storms.

Special shielding will be essential. We can't do it yet.



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Private space?

Some people want to go into space privately.

Space tourism, private rockets and space stations, robotic explorers.

Lots of ideas.



Private space?

In the 1990s there were several plans for private lunar missions...

Transorbital - Iunar orbiter and lander, selling images and data.

Applied Space Resources - sample return, selling lunar rock and soil.









Private space?

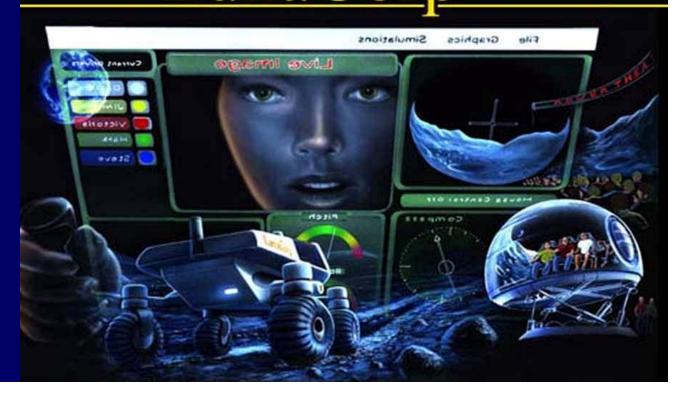
Most ambitious:

Lunacorp - rovers linked to theme parks and entertainment.

Ride in a simulator run by video and motion data from a rover on the Moon. Pay to drive the rover yourself.

Companies could not raise funds.





Ansari X Prize

1996 - X Prize Foundation, prize for human suborbital space flight.

Fly up to 100 km altitude in a reusable vehicle.

Part of the \$10 million prize came from the Ansari family.



Ansari X Prize

Won in 2004 by Burt Rutan's company *Scaled Composites* of Mojave, CA.

Technology licensed by Sir Richard Branson for *Virgin Galactic* - space tourism.



Virgin Galactic

Branson's new company sells tickets for \$200,000.

Three days: training and flight up to 100 km, five minutes weightless, 6 passengers.

Vehicle now in test phase, flights maybe next year.

Spaceport in New Mexico (Dubai and Scotland later).

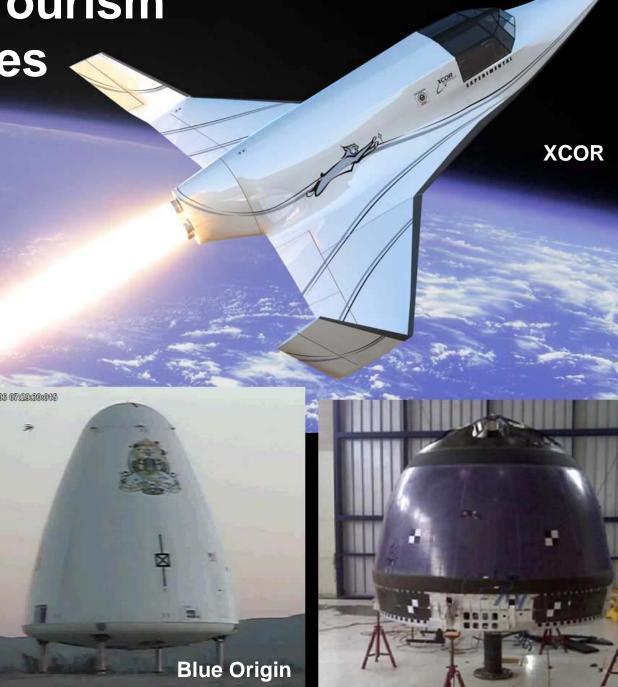


Other Space Tourism companies

Other companies are aiming at this market.

XCOR – Lynx vehicle, 1 passenger, \$100,000.

Blue Origin (Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.com) – plans include orbital vehicles. Launch failure in 2011.

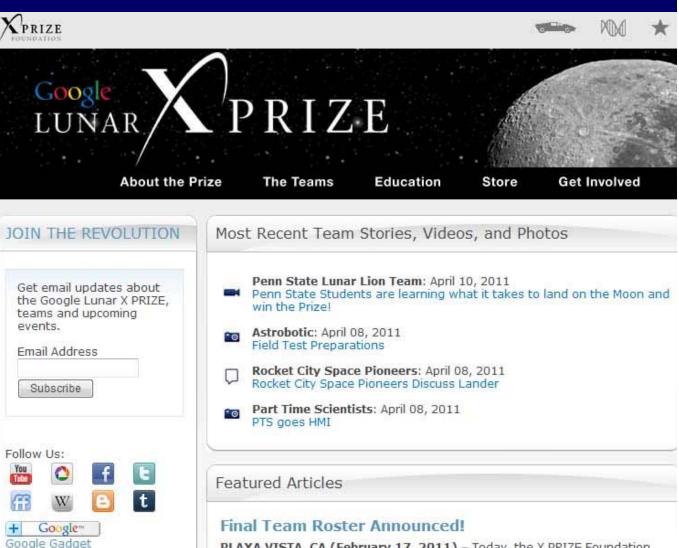


Google Lunar X Prize

New X Prize competition, prize funded by Google, Inc.

\$30 million in prizes for landing on the Moon, moving around, sending pictures.

Deadline December 2015, first attempt in about 2013.



YouTube Videos



PLAYA VISTA, CA (February 17, 2011) – Today, the X PRIZE Foundation announced the official roster of 29 registered teams competing for the \$30 million Google Lunar X PRIZE, an unprecedented competition to send a robot to the Moon that travels at least 500 meters and transmit video, images, and data back to the Earth. This group of teams signifies this new era of exploration's diverse and participatory nature as it includes a huge variety of groups ranging from non-profits to university consortia to billion dollar businesses representing 17 nations on four continents. The global competition, the largest in history, was announced in September 2007, with a winner projected by 2015.

Peter Congratulates Google Lunar X PRIZE Regis

Google Lunar X Prize

A few teams:

Astrobotic (USA) Odyssey Moon (Isle of Man) Moon Express (USA) Euroluna (Europe) Selenokhod (Russia)

29 teams signed up, 25 left now.









Next Giant Leap



STREEGY MOON SMRERGY MOON

SYNERGY MOON



Part-Time-Scientists











e-X Omega Envoy



Moon Express





Bigelow Aerospace

Founded by Robert Bigelow.

Genesis: inflatable space modules licensed from NASA.

Two are in orbit now for testing.

Private space stations, ISS add-on, Lunar outpost etc.



Space-X

Space Exploration Technologies

Founded by Elon Musk. Private rockets, several successful launches to orbit with the Dragon capsule.

Will supply the Space Station, and later carry crews to orbit.

NASA would buy tickets to space, not build rockets.



Space Adventures

Only company to organize private flights to orbit.

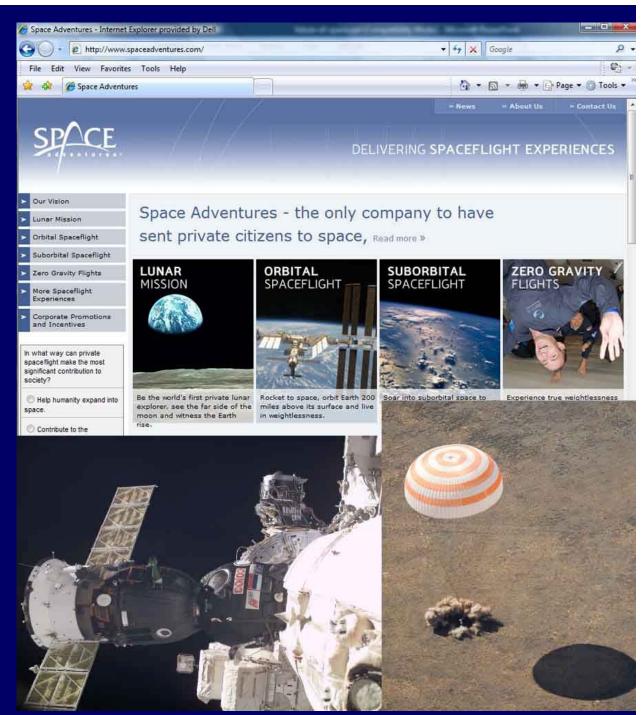
Every seat purchased from Russia.

Dennis Tito in 2001, seven others since.

More to come - costs \$35 million per trip.

or... \$150 million for a trip around the Moon!

2012 – UK firm Excalibur-Almaz offers similar lunar trips in Russian vehicles.



Planetary Resources

New company hoping to find valuable resources in asteroids.

(1) discover many small asteroids that pass near Earth.

(2) explore them for valuable minerals.

(3) move into lunar orbit and extract resources.

Big names backing the idea, so it may happen.



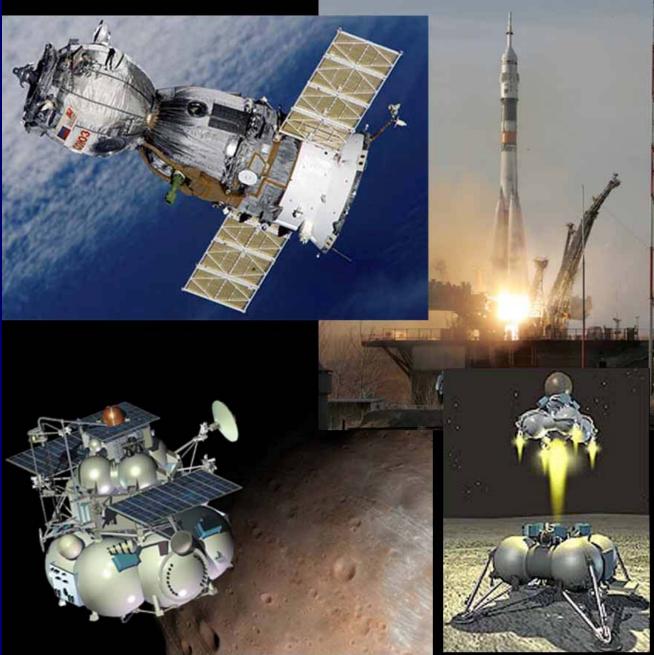
Other nations? Russia

Russia's economy has held it back, but it's still big in space.

More rocket launches than any other nation each year.

The only crew access to the Space Station for much of this decade.

Planning missions to the Moon and Mars.



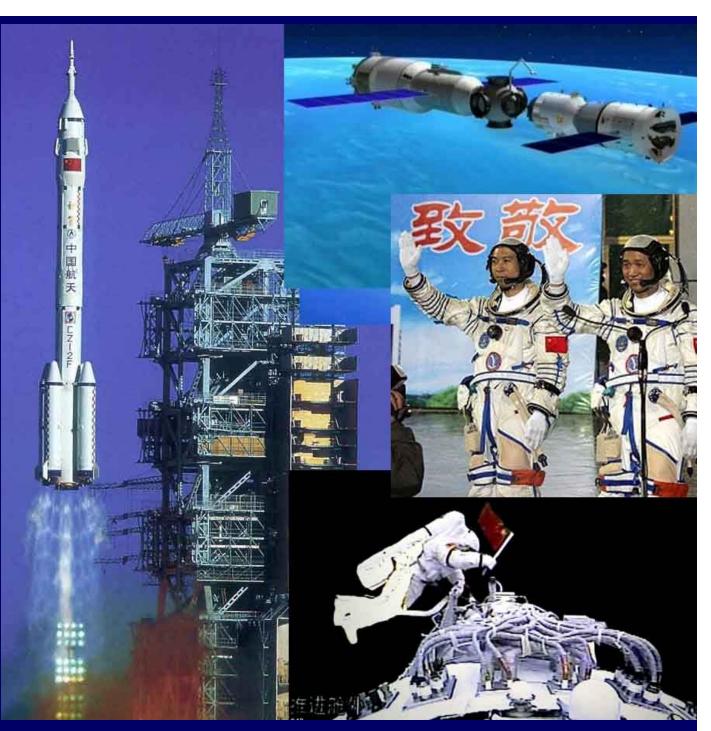
Roscosmos, IKI RAN

China

China is only the third nation to orbit its own crews.

First astronaut in 2003, small space station tested in 2012, big station in 2020.

Slow but steady progress.



CNSA

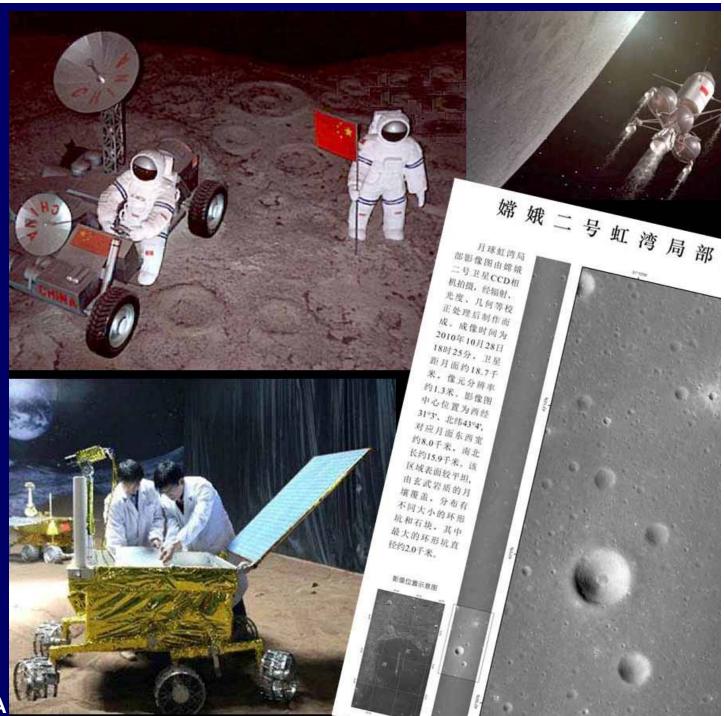
China to the Moon

Lunar orbiters (Chang-E) now, and landers, rovers, sample return soon.

May send an orbiter to Mars soon.

People to the Moon? Maybe, in about 2025.

CNS



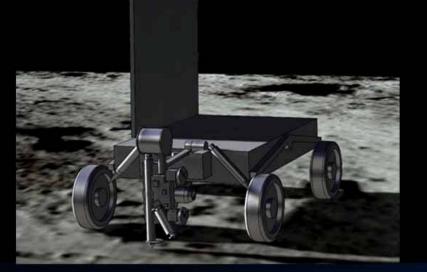
India

Rockets and satellites form a robust base to build on.

Lunar orbiter in 2008, rover in 2014, Mars orbiter soon.

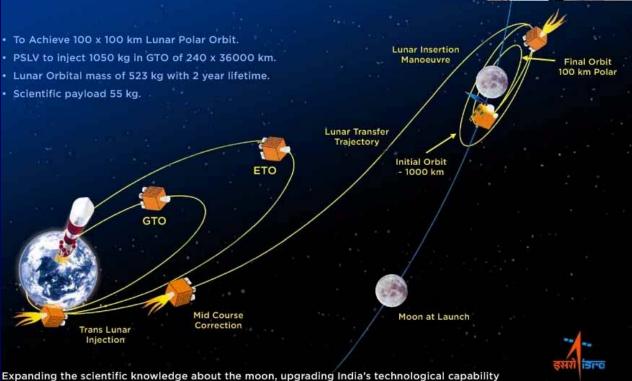
Human space flight developing slowly, first flight after 2020.

A new 'space race' with China?



Chandrayaan - 1

INDIA'S FIRST MISSION TO THE MOOI



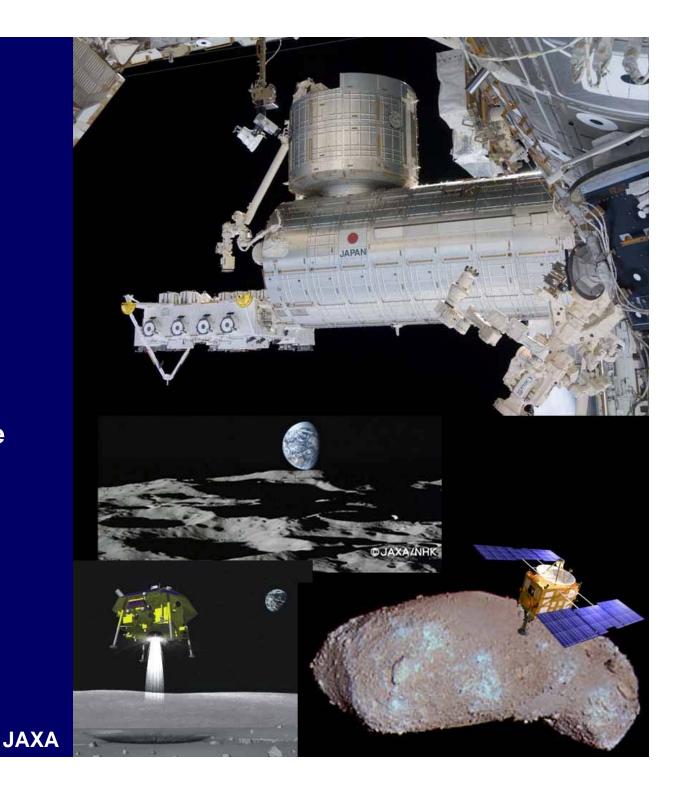
and providing challenging opportunities for planetary research for the younger generation.

Japan

Rockets and satellites well established.

Part of the Space Station program, but plans for human space flight cancelled.

Kaguya lunar orbiter, planned future moon lander, *Hayabus*a asteroid sample return mission.



Europe (ESA)

Rockets and satellites well established.

Part of the Space Station program, and their astronauts may go further when finances improve.

Spacecraft to the Moon, Mars, Venus and asteroids. Mercury and a comet coming up.



Future of space?

Not colonies on Mars, but we're not giving up.

Routine operations run by private companies like Space-X and Bigelow.

Astronauts prepare to move beyond Earth orbit.

Robots continue to explore the planets.



Future of space?

Space will be a busy place in the 21st Century.

International scope.

Private investment.

Not the old Cold War space race any more!



Astrobotic Inc.



Thanks for your interest in the future of space.

Philip Stooke

