

Return to the Moon (02)
Concepts for Robotic and Human Missions to the Moon (3)

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KEPLER MOON BASE: A FULL-SIZE MOON BASE DEVELOPMENT SITE ON EARTH

Abstract

This is a proposal to build upon the Astronaut Training Site at Gray Mountain, near Flagstaff, Arizona, led by Kepler Space University (KSU) and supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the US Geological Survey (USGS) Center for Astrogeology at Flagstaff, and other universities, private industry, and individuals. This program would begin with a three-person first-return to the Moon mission, and expand the base incrementally to finally include up to one hundred personnel. It would be pre-planned from the beginning, but with built-in flexibility to allow changes to the plan over time.

The basic purposes of this Kepler Moon Base are six-fold: 1. Learn how to build a Moon base with the least imported materials and maximum use of in-situ resources. The site is a vast plain of volcanic ash and weathered lava. 2. Learn how to maximize the utility of the smallest number of personnel with maximum cross-training. 3. Learn how to maximize base self-sufficiency. 4. Build and test tele-operated exploration, excavation and load-handling equipment. 5. Provide an educational environment for as many people as possible from grade-school up through senior professionals and astronaut trainees. 6. Provide public relations opportunities for the organizations supporting the base.

Presentation is oral accompanied by PowerPoint and display models.