

Return to the Moon (02)
Poster Session (P)

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THE ECONOMIES OF COOPERATION IN OUR RETURN TO THE MOON

Abstract

For almost a decade and half, the United States and the Soviet Union wasted hundreds of U.S dollars in a bevy of competitive lunar missions, driven by national prestige and the desire to demonstrate military/scientific superiority. That era, ended in flags and footprints, even though the engineering and scientific advances/returns from the missions were immensely important and still of great benefits to us today. Today, the plan to return to the Moon by diverse actors, with a new goal of economic sustainability, calls for international cooperation. This work focuses on the economies of cooperation in the second era of lunar exploration. It gives a history of the first era of lunar exploration. It then discusses the problems that characterized that era. It further talks about the need for international cooperation with a bid to return to the Moon, while dwelling on the economies of such cooperation such as risk sharing, cost reduction, peaceful coexistence, better and faster technology, absence of unhealthy competition, etc. It concludes with recommendations.