

SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM (A3)
Moon Exploration – Part 1 (2A)

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UPDATE ON THE GOOGLE LUNAR XPRIZE IN 2017

Abstract

The Google Lunar XPRIZE, a \$US 30 Million prize purse, was created in 2007 to incentivize space entrepreneurship and create a new era of affordable access to the Moon and beyond. In order to win the \$US 20 Million Grand Prize a privately funded team must land on the Moon, move 500 meters, and send back HD video and imagery. Teams completing additional predefined technical achievement on the Moon such as visiting a Heritage site or surviving the lunar night are eligible for additional Bonus Prize Money. As of January 2017, 5 teams have procured verified launch contracts and are eligible to compete for the Grand Prize. Teams must launch their mission by December 31, 2017. The five teams are SpaceIL (Israel), Moon Express (United States), Synergy Moon (International), Indus (India) and Hakuto (Japan). This paper and accompanying presentation will give an overview of the competition and highlight the upcoming mission to the Moon.