

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

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THE LUNAR RECONNAISSANCE ORBITER: BEGINNING THE SCIENCE MISSION AFTER THE
EXPLORATION MISSION

Abstract

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter spacecraft (LRO) was launched on June 18, 2009 and arrived at the Moon 5 days later on June 23. LRO began its mission as part of NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD) in order to seek safe landing sites for future robotic missions or the return of humans to the Moon. In addition LRO's primary objectives included the search for resources and to investigate the Lunar radiation environment.

The Exploration Mission for ESMD will have completed on September 15, 2010 and LRO will have begun a two-year Science Mission under NASA's Science Mission Directorate. This presentation updates the status and recent results from the LRO Exploration Mission, as well as the plans and objectives for the Science Mission.