

15th SYMPOSIUM ON SMALL SATELLITE MISSIONS (B4)
Hitchhiking to the Moon (8)

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THE GOOGLE LUNAR X PRIZE

Abstract

The Google Lunar X PRIZE, announced in September of 2007, offers a total of US\$30 Million in prizes to the first privately funded teams to successfully explore the surface of the Moon with a robotic spacecraft. This completion has helped spur 29 teams from 17 nations to put forth an effort at a commercial lunar venture; many of those teams are multinational in nature, meaning that team members are actively pursuing this prize in more than seventy nations. The teams competing for the Google Lunar X PRIZE each pursue their own technical solutions, resulting in a large variety of mission and vehicle designs. The vast majority of these teams seek to serve additional missions and additional customers beyond just the Google Lunar X PRIZE mission requirements, whether that be on the initial mission or with follow on spacecraft. This paper and the accompanying presentation will give the latest update on the status of the Google Lunar X PRIZE and the opportunities within the competition, calling on the most current information on the competing teams that is cleared for public distribution.