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CREATING A MOON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Abstract

The Moon Village concept is a common destination for multiple users and multiple uses where different nations could collaborate together for sustainable operations on Moon surface as well as in cis-lunar space. It encompasses all infrastructure and systems supporting surface operations or stand-alone activities in lunar orbits.

The Moon Village vision would serve as a space exploration catalyst for government, scientific research, education, and industry activities, stimulating a virtuous cycle of investments. Industry will build infrastructures, thanks to government and private funding, and will also provide the products to operate the system and create new application and services.

Any large international space endeavor like the Moon Village will require the strong support of the public at large, and then of the various decision makers. The Moon Village vision shall win support from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, beyond the usual space community, including support from the civil society, the industrial sector, the finance sector, and others.

In 2016, a group of space professionals started to work on the concept of a Moon Village Association, as a tool to build a worldwide, all spectrum, support to Moon Village. The mission of the Moon Village Association would be to “Support the world-wide decision making process for the creation of Moon Village infrastructure in/beyond LEO under sustainable and open ended human and robotic programs, in partnership with Space Agencies, Industry and Society”.

A project is going on to implement this Association. The proposed paper will report on this project which shall be well advanced at the time of the IAC 2017, possibly with the Moon Village Association already in place. The following aspects will be addressed : vision and mission, operational structure, legal structure, membership, communication, strategic and work plans.