

IAF SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM (A3)
Moon Exploration – Part 2 (2B)

Author: Mr. Steve Durst
International Lunar Observatory Association (ILOA), United States

ILOA 5 MOON MISSION UPDATE OCT 2020: MOON LANDINGS ON THE HORIZON

Abstract

International Lunar Observatory Association (ILOA) in this 2020s ‘International Lunar Decade’ is poised and ready to have a presence on some of the initial pioneering Moon landing missions of the 21st Century, led by commercial enterprise and various international space agencies. The flagship ILO-1 mission to Malapert Mountain near the Moon South Pole is being developed through work of prime contractor Canadensys Aerospace Corp of Toronto, Ontario. Canadensys will deliver “a flight-ready low-cost optical payload for the ILO-1 mission, ruggedized for the Moon South Pole environment”. ILOA plans to develop two nearly identical payloads in order to be ready for a follow-on mission, ILO-2. ILOA intends to contract with Intuitive Machines LLC of Houston TX this year to fly ILO-X precursor mission to achieve the first Milky Way Galaxy image and astronomical observation and communications from the Moon NET October 2021. ILOA real-time astronomy on the lunar surface continues through the ILOA / National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC) MoU and a co-sponsorship of a dedicated researcher to analyze Lunar-based Ultraviolet Telescope data and publish scientific results. The ILOA Human Moon Mission is approaching realization through a major international conference Galaxy Forum Hainan – now re-set to 12-15 January 2021 (TBC) themed “International Human Moon Landings” and “Astronomy from the Moon”. First Women on the Moon initiative has become a high priority for ILOA which continues to advocate for and support the expansion of the ‘sphere of women’s influence’ by a factor of 1 Billion when women land on the Moon. This goal has also been adopted by USA and aligns with its Artemis mission plans to land women and men at the Moon South Pole in 2024. The Galaxy Forum program continues to pursue its two principal priorities: To advance Galaxy 21st Century Education in every class, and to develop Principal Operating Partnerships to support ILOA missions, with notable POP progress in Canada and Southeast Asia, as well as in Japan, China, India, Europe and USA. This year ILOA was honored to help host with NARIT the ‘Princess of Astronomy’ HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at Galaxy Forum Southeast 2020 Chiang Mai on 3 March. Through collaboration with international space agencies, commercial enterprises, and potential participation in NASA’s lunar program, ILOA is prepared to be a major contributor to the exploration of the Galaxy, Moon, and everything in-between.