



Beyond the Moon: A New Roadmap for Human Space Exploration in the 21st Century

In "Beyond the Moon: A New Roadmap for Human Space Exploration in the 21st Century," The Planetary Society outlines a vigorous new approach to space exploration that is as inspiring as it is sustainable in the world's current economic climate. The Roadmap represents a new, flexible, affordable program, based on a series of important first-time achievements and an international commitment to exploration and discovery.

Key elements of the plan include:

- * Establishing a global space exploration partnership
- * Embarking on a step-by-step approach leading to new, first-ever achievements in interplanetary flight, including the first human mission to a near-Earth object
- * Deferring human landings on the Moon until the costs of the interplanetary transportation system and shuttle replacement are largely paid, to ease pressures on NASA's budget
- * Focusing on Mars as the long-range goal of human spaceflight and re-establishing NASA's research and technology base to enable that future
- * Accelerating research into global climate change through more comprehensive Earth observations

International cooperation is emphasized as a means of reducing cost, increasing public interest, and re-establishing America's stature as the leader of a peaceful international partnership. The program will also stimulate the education of the future technologists, engineers, scientists, and inventors who will ensure that America remains in the forefront of an increasingly competitive world in the coming decades.

A budget level commensurate with that outlined in the NASA Authorization Act of 2008 will allow this program to proceed at a reasonable pace. This program's milestones can be structured in a flexible "go as you pay" manner that takes into account the nation's economic situation, response to new discoveries and technological progress, and the sharing of costs with international partners.

The Planetary Society has inspired millions of people to explore other worlds and seek other life. Today, its international membership makes the non-governmental Planetary Society the largest space interest group in the world.

The Planetary Society
65 N Catalina Avenue, Pasadena, California 91106
626-793-5100 www.planetary.org tps@planetary.org