



International Partnerships at the NASA Lunar Science Institute: A new era of cooperation

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Abstract

The NASA Lunar Science Institute (NLSI) has been aggressively pursuing international partnerships since it was founded, in order to both leverage the science being done by its domestic member institutions as well as to help lunar science become a greater global endeavor. The international partners of NLSI have pursued a broad program of lunar science stimulated by scientific partnerships enabled by the NLSI community. Furthermore, regional partnerships have been formed such as the new pan-European lunar science consortium, which promises both new scientific approaches and mission concepts.

1. Introduction

Founded in April 2008, the NASA Lunar Science Institute (NLSI) is a virtual institute that connects domestic and international teams through commercial and academic web-based tools into a cohesive institute “without walls.” NLSI has a program of partnerships with international lunar science organizations to provide collaborative research opportunities for all members of the international science community. Non-U.S. lunar science organizations can propose to become either Associate or Affiliate Members of the NLSI on a no-exchange-of-funds basis. Associate membership involves a government to government agreement, while Affiliate membership is with non-government institutions, these forming the majority of the agreements.

Countries with whom the NLSI have partnerships with as of the submission of this abstract are Canada, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and Israel.

2. Future Plans for Engagement

Both space-faring nations and non-traditional partners are sought for NLSI partnership to further the development of lunar science around the world as well as provide benefits to the public through outreach and education.

International partnership requires a long-term commitment from both the partner and the NLSI, tangible and specific plans for scientific interaction that will produce results of mutual benefit, and a broad range of research groups that are able to represent the lunar science activity within a country.

3. Summary

NLSI is continuously developing its international partnership program and is actively supporting a new pan-European lunar science consortium. Parties interested in partnering with the NLSI are encouraged to contact the authors of this abstract.

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