

The International Lunar Decade Declaration

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Abstract

The International Lunar Decade Declaration was discussed at the conference held November 9-13, 2014 in Hawaii “The Next Giant Leap: Leveraging Lunar Assets for Sustainable Pathways to Space” – <http://2014giantleap.aerospacehawaii.info/> and accepted by a core group that forms the International Lunar Decade Working Group (ILDWG) that is seeking to make the proposed global event and decade long process a reality. The Declaration will be updated from time to time by members of the ILDWG reflecting new knowledge and fresh perspectives that bear on building a global consortium with a mission to progress from lunar exploration to the transformation of the Moon into a wealth generating platform for the expansion of humankind into the solar system. When key organizations have endorsed the idea and joined the effort the text of the Declaration will be considered final. An earlier International Lunar Decade proposal was issued at the 8th ICEUM Conference in 2006 in Beijing together with 13 specific initiatives for lunar exploration[1,2,3]. These initiatives have been largely implemented with coordination among the different space agencies involved provided by the International Lunar Exploration Working Group [2,3]. The Second International Lunar Decade from 2015 reflects current trends towards increasing involvement of commercial firms in space, particularly seeking opportunities beyond low Earth orbit. The central vision of the

International Lunar Decade is to build the foundations for a sustainable space economy through international collaboration concurrently addressing

- Lunar exploration and building a shared knowledge base;
- Policy development that enables collaborative research and development leading to lunar mining and industrial and commercial development;
- Infrastructure on the Moon and in cislunar space (communications, transport, energy systems, way-stations, other) that reduces costs, lowers risks and speeds up the time to profitable operations;
- Enabling technologies needed for lunar operations (robotic and human), lunar mining, materials processing, manufacturing, transportation, life support and other.

The current text of the International Lunar Decade, and update information can be found at <https://ildwg.wordpress.com/>

References

- [1] Planetary Society Press Release 31-03-2015 from http://www.planetary.org/pressroom/releases/2006/0708_Planetary_Society_Calls_for.html [2] ILEWG : <http://sci.esa.int/ilewg> ;
- [3] Foing, B. H.; Wu, J.; Iceum8 Participants, Beijing Lunar Declaration 2006, Advances in Space Research, Volume 42, Issue 2, p. 244-245. (online at <http://sci.esa.int/ilewg/38863-iceum8-beijing-2006declaration/>)