

Strategy for the International Lunar Decade

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Abstract

ILD is a global event and process for international collaboration in space initiated by the International Lunar Exploration Working Group (ILEWG), the National Space Society and the National Science Centre FOTONIKA-LV of the University of Latvia. ILD is planned for launch in 2017, the 60th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year that marked the dawn of the space age with the launch of Sputnik. ILD is envisioned as a decade long process of international collaboration with lunar exploration concurrent with development of policies, key enabling technologies and infrastructures on the Moon and in cislunar space leading towards an eventual goal of industrial development of the Moon and economic activity beyond Earth orbit [1]. This second International Lunar Decade will build on the foundations of the ILD first proposed in by the Planetary Society in 2006 at International Conference on Exploration and Utilisation of the Moon (ICEUM), was endorsed by ICEUM participants [3], and then by ILEWG, COSPAR and other organizations. Starting in 2007, the work plan included a series of recommendations for lunar exploration missions coordinated through the ILEWG agencies and COSPAR. Advances in technology such as CubeSats and 3D printing and fundamental changes in mind-set marked by initiatives such as the Google Lunar-X prize and asteroid mining ventures have made industrial development of the Moon a thinkable proposition. The ILD to

be launched in 2017 is intended to set the stage for the Moon to become a wealth generating platform for human expansion into the solar system. ILD is being organized to engage existing organizations involved in space collaboration such as COSPAR, COPUOS, ISECG, technical and scientific organizations and others that address space policy, space law, space security, governance and related concerns. Additional organizations will be involved that deal with structures, ecosystems, financing, economic development and health and life support and related concerns. The Moon Treaty (1979) will be reviewed for its applicability to the development of the international regime that will be required to govern mining, industrial development and commercial activities on the Moon. ILD has already been a significant topic in several international conferences. Through this and many other conferences to follow the initial organizers expect that key organizations will see a role for their activities within the ILD process, endorse it and start to shape implementation plans. This report will focus on overall strategies for the ILD process to fully engage multiple countries and organizations building towards a shared vision through a diversity of scientific, technical and cultural perspectives. Public outreach and involvement of the public, particularly youth and schools will be an important component of the overall strategy. The activities of the International Lunar Decade Working Group can be followed at <https://ildwg.wordpress.com/>

References

[1] V. Beldavs, "The International Lunar Decade: Scenarios for long term collaboration in space development, The Space Review, retrieved 2015-05-01 from <http://www.thespacereview.com/article/2728/1>; [2] ILEWG website: <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/>)