

Utilisation Opportunities on the Lunar Orbital Platform - Gateway

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The Lunar Orbital Platform - Gateway is being established as a strategic platform, from which human exploration of the Solar System can set forth. Its location in the lunar vicinity, and outside of the Earth's deep gravity well allow it to be used as a staging post for exploration missions to the lunar surface and eventually to other deep space destinations including Mars. It is also a platform in a location where the human and technological challenges of long duration human missions in deep space can be investigated and addressed. The platform is being prepared through international cooperation, led by the partner agencies of the International Space Station: ESA, NASA, JAXA, Roscosmos and CSA.

The technical definition of the Gateway is driven by the technical needs of preparing deep space human exploration. It could also support opportunistic scientific research. This research could relate to a wide range of scientific disciplines. Investigations related to these various research areas will carry with them specific technical implications.

A detailed description of the Gateway can be found at <http://exploration.esa.int/moon/59374-overview/>.

In this talk we present an overview of the Gateway, it's status in ESA and ESA's plans to enable scientific utilisation in coordination with its international partners.