



# Lunar ISRU Development and Flight Strategy

Presentation to Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium

July 15, 2020





## Lunar ISRU To Sustain and Grow Human Lunar Surface Exploration

- **Lunar Resource Characterization for Science and Prospecting**
  - Provide ground-truth on physical, mineral, and volatile characteristics – provide geological context;
  - Test technologies to reduce risk for future extraction/mining
- **Mission Consumable Production (O<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, Fuel):**
- **Learn to Use Lunar Resources and ISRU for Sustained Operations**
  - *In situ* manufacturing and construction feedstock and applications

## Lunar ISRU To Reduce the Risk and Prepare for Human Mars Exploration

- **Develop and demonstrate technologies and systems applicable to Mars**
- **Use Moon for operational experience and mission validation for Mars;** Mission critical application
  - Regolith/soil excavation, transport, and processing to extract, collect, and clean water
  - Pre-deploy, remote activation and operation, autonomy, propellant transfer, landing with empty tanks
- **Enable New Mission Capabilities with ISRU**
  - Refuelable hoppers, enhanced shielding, common mission fluids and depots

## Lunar ISRU To Enable Economic Expansion into Space

- ***SPD-1: Reinvigorating America's Human Space Exploration Program***
  - Promote International Partnerships
  - Promote Commercial Operations/Business Opportunities (Terrestrial and Space)
- ***SPD-2: Streamlining Regulations on the Commercial Use of Space***
  - Promote economic growth and encourage American leadership in space commerce



# Why Use Space Resources for Human Exploration

- **Using Space Resources can reduce mission and architecture mass and costs**
  - Launch mass savings
  - Reduce launch numbers
  - Reduce costs - reuse mission transportation assets
  - Supports terrestrial industry/Enables space commercialization
- **Using Space Resources can increase safety for crew and mission success**
  - Ensure and enhance crew safety
  - Provide critical solutions for mission assurance
  - Minimizes impact of shortfalls in other system performance
  - Enhance crew psychological health
- **Using Space Resources can enhance or enable new mission capabilities**
  - Mission life extensions and enhancements
  - Increased surface mobility and access
  - Increased science
- **Learning to use Space Resources can help us on Earth**

# How Making Propellants on Planetary Surfaces Saves on Launches and Cost (Gear Ratio Effect)



**Every 1 kg of propellant made on the Moon or Mars saves 7.5 to 11.2 kg in LEO**

## Potential >283 mT launch mass saved in LEO = 3+ SLS launches per Mars Ascent

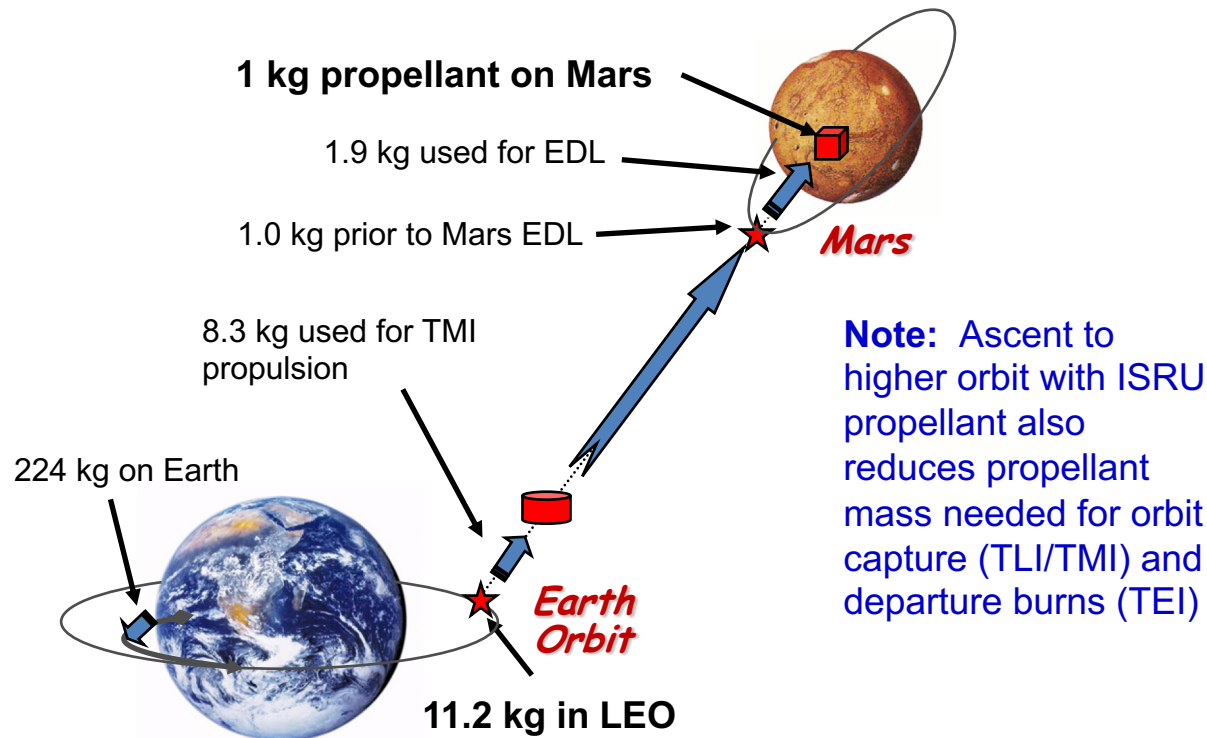
- Savings depend on in-space transportation approach and assumptions; previous Mars gear ratio calculations showed only a 7.5 kg saving
- 25,000 kg mass savings from propellant production on Mars for ascent = 187,500 to 282,500 kg launched into LEO

### Mars Crew Ascent Mission

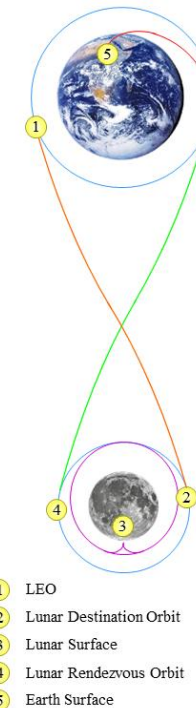
- Oxygen only                      75% of ascent prop. mass:    20 to 23 mT
- Methane + Oxygen            100% of ascent prop. mass: 25.7 to 29.6 mT

### Moon Lander: Surface to NRHO

- Crew Ascent Stage (1 way): 3 to 6 mT O<sub>2</sub>
- Single Stage (both ways): 40 to 50 mT O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>



Estimates based on Aerocapture at Mars

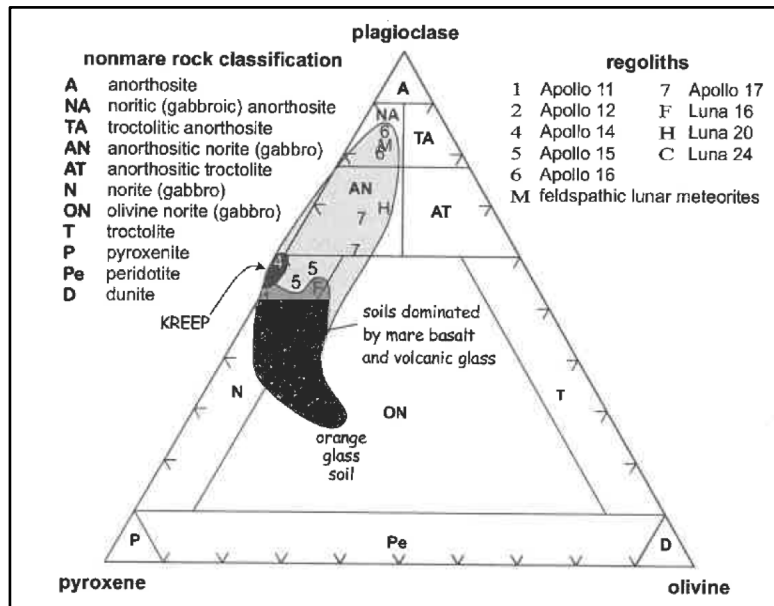


A Kilogram of Mass Delivered Here...	...Adds This Much Initial Architecture Mass in LEO	...Adds This Much To the Launch Pad Mass
Ground to LEO	-	20.4 kg
LEO to Lunar Orbit (#1→#2)	4.3 kg	87.7 kg
LEO to Lunar Surface (#1→#3; e.g., Descent Stage)	7.5 kg	153 kg
LEO to Lunar Orbit to Earth Surface (#1→#4→#5; e.g., Orion Crew Module)	9.0 kg	183.6 kg
Lunar Surface to Earth Surface (#3→#5; e.g., Lunar Sample)	12.0 kg	244.8 kg
LEO to Lunar Surface to Lunar Orbit (#1→#3→#4; e.g., Ascent Stage)	14.7 kg	300 kg
LEO to Lunar Surface to Earth Surface (#1→#3→#5; e.g., Crew)	19.4 kg	395.8 kg



## Lunar Regolith

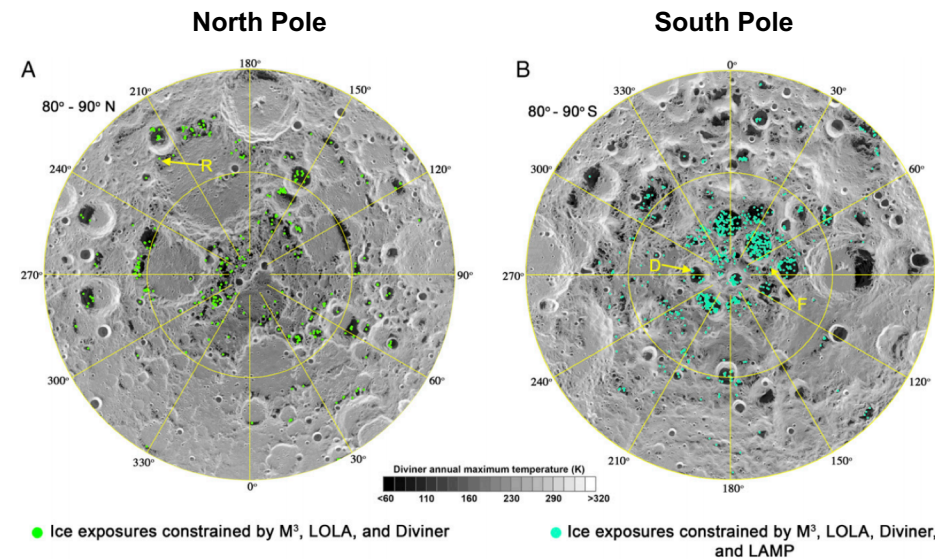
- **>40% Oxygen by mass**
  - Silicate minerals make up over 90% of the Moon
- Regolith
  - Mare: Basalt (plagioclase, pyroxene, olivine)
  - **Highland/Polar: >75% anorthite, iron poor**
- Pyroclastic Glass
- KREEP (Potassium, Rare Earth Elements, Phosphorous)
- Solar Wind Implanted Volatiles



From *New Views of the Moon*

## Polar Water/Volatiles

- LCROSS impact estimated **5.5 wt%** water along with other volatiles
- Green and blue dots show positive results for surface water ice and temperatures <110 K using orbital data.
- Spectral modeling shows that some ice-bearing pixels may contain **~30 wt % ice** (mixed with dry regolith)
- *Without direct measurements, form, concentration, and distribution of water is unknown*



Li et. al, (2018), *Direct evidence of surface exposed water ice in the lunar polar regions*

	Concentration (% wt)*
H <sub>2</sub> O	5.5
CO	0.70
H <sub>2</sub>	1.40
H <sub>2</sub> S	1.74
Ca	0.20
Hg	0.24
NH <sub>3</sub>	0.31
Mg	0.40
SO <sub>2</sub>	0.64
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	0.27
CO <sub>2</sub>	0.32
CH <sub>3</sub> OH	0.15
CH <sub>4</sub>	0.03
OH	0.00
H <sub>2</sub> O (adsorb)	0.001-0.002
Na	

# Lunar Surface ISRU Capabilities



## Resource Assessment – Looking for Water/Minerals

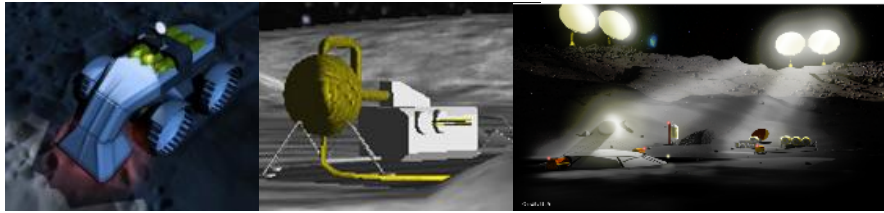


Global Assessment

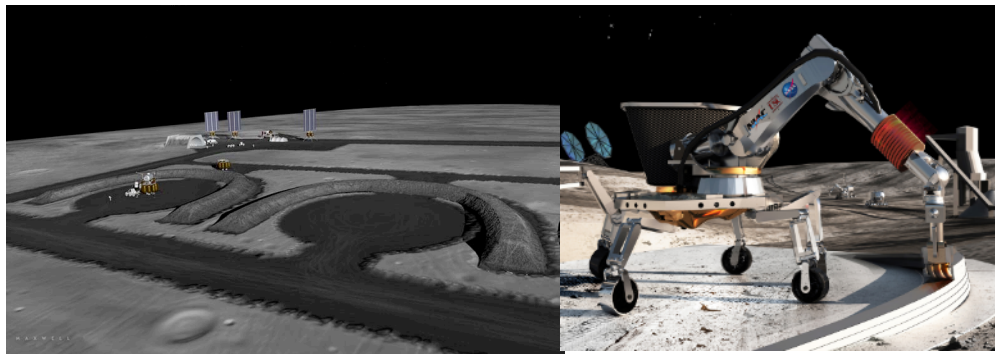


Local Assessment

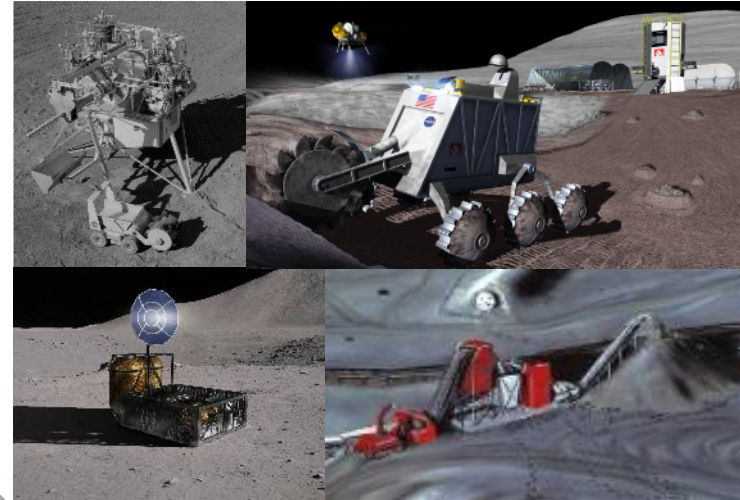
## Mining Polar Water & Volatiles



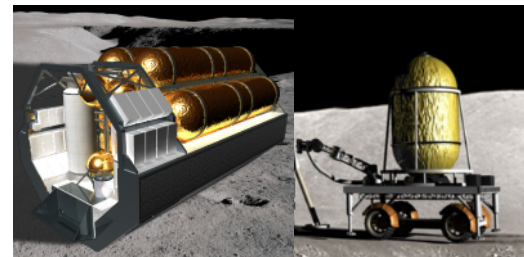
## Landing Pads, Berms, Roads, Shielding and Structure Construction



## Excavation & Regolith Processing for O<sub>2</sub> & Metal Production



## Consumable Storage & Delivery

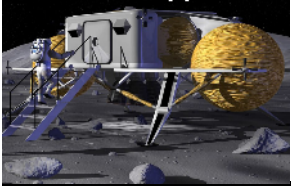


## Consumable Users

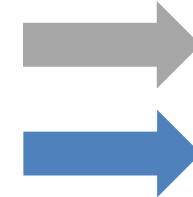
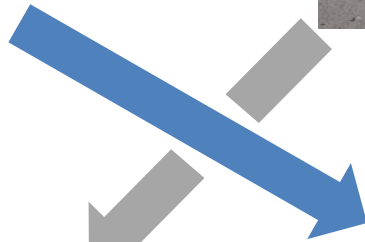
### Rovers & EVA Suits



### Habitats & Life Support



### Landers & Hoppers



# Lunar ISRU Mission Consumables: Polar Water and Oxygen from Regolith



## ▪ Water (and Volatiles) from Polar Regolith

- Form, concentration, and distribution of Water in shadowed regions/craters is not known
  - Technologies & missions in work to locate and characterize resources to reduce risk for mission incorporation
- Provides 100% of chemical propulsion propellant mass
- Polar water is “Game Changing” and enables long-term sustainability
  - Strongly influences design and reuse of cargo and human landers and transportation elements
  - Strongly influences location for sustained surface operations

## ▪ Oxygen from Regolith

- Lunar regolith is >40% oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) by mass
- Technologies and operations are moderate risk from past work and can be performed anywhere on the Moon
- Provides 75 to 80% of chemical propulsion propellant mass (fuel from Earth); O<sub>2</sub> for EVA, rovers, Habs.
- Experience from regolith excavation, beneficiation, and transfer applicable to mining Mars hydrated soil/minerals for water and *in situ* manufacturing and constructions

## ➤ **Current Plan:** Lead with Water Mining/Follow with O<sub>2</sub> from Regolith Dual Path

- Perform PRIME-1 CLPS and VIPER to begin to understand lunar polar water availability
- Develop O<sub>2</sub> from Regolith high-fidelity ground demo in a TVC in parallel
- Utilize results from these activities to inform the 2-3 subsystem tech demos in the 2024-2026 timeframe which will culminate in the scalable pilot.

# In Situ Propellant & Consumable Production (ISPCP) Phases of Evolution and Use



	Demo Scale	Pilot Plant	Crewed Ascent Vehicle*	Full Descent Stage*	Single Stage to NRHO**	Human Mars Transportation <sup>†</sup>	Commercial Cis-Lunar Transportation <sup>^</sup>
			3 Stage Arch to NRHO				
Timeframe	days to months	6 mo - 1 year	1 mission/yr	1 mission/yr	1 mission/yr	per year	per year
Demo/System Mass <sup>^^</sup>	10's kg to low 100's kg		1400 to 2200 kg	2400 to 3700 kg	Not Defined	Not Defined	29,000 to 41,000 kg
Amount O <sub>2</sub>	10's kg	100's to low 1000's kg	4,000 to 6,000 kg	8,000 to 10,000 kg	30,000 to 50,000 kg	185,000 to 267,000 kg	400,000 to 2,175,000 kg
Amount H <sub>2</sub>	10's gms to kilograms	10's to low 100's kg		1,400 to 1,900 kg	5,500 to 9,100 kg	23,000 to 33,000 kg	50,000 to 275,000 kg
Power for O <sub>2</sub> in NPS			20 to 32 KW	40 to 55 KW	N/A	N/A	N/A
Power for H <sub>2</sub> O in PSR				21.5 KW	14 to 23 KW		150 to 800 KW
Power for H <sub>2</sub> O to O <sub>2</sub> /H <sub>2</sub> in NPS				37.5 KWe	55 to 100 KWe		370 to 2,000 KWe

NPR = Near Permanent Sunlight

PSR = Permanently Shadowed Region

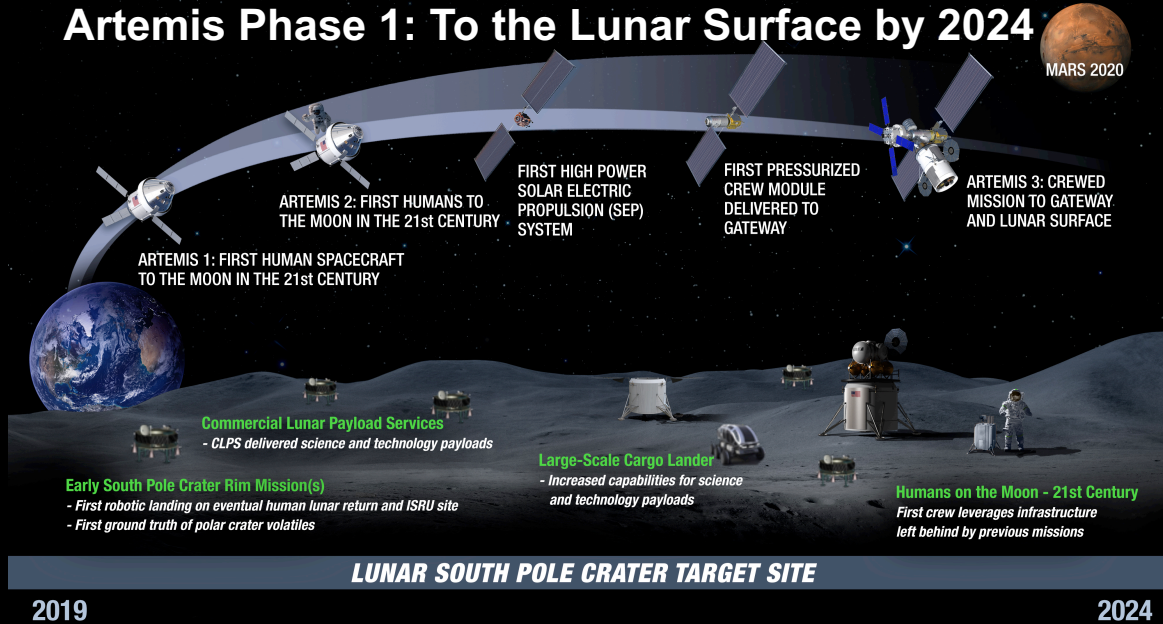
- Table use best available studies and commercial considerations to guide development requirements/FOMs
- Table provides rough guide to developers and other surface elements/Strategic Technology Plans for interfacing with ISRU



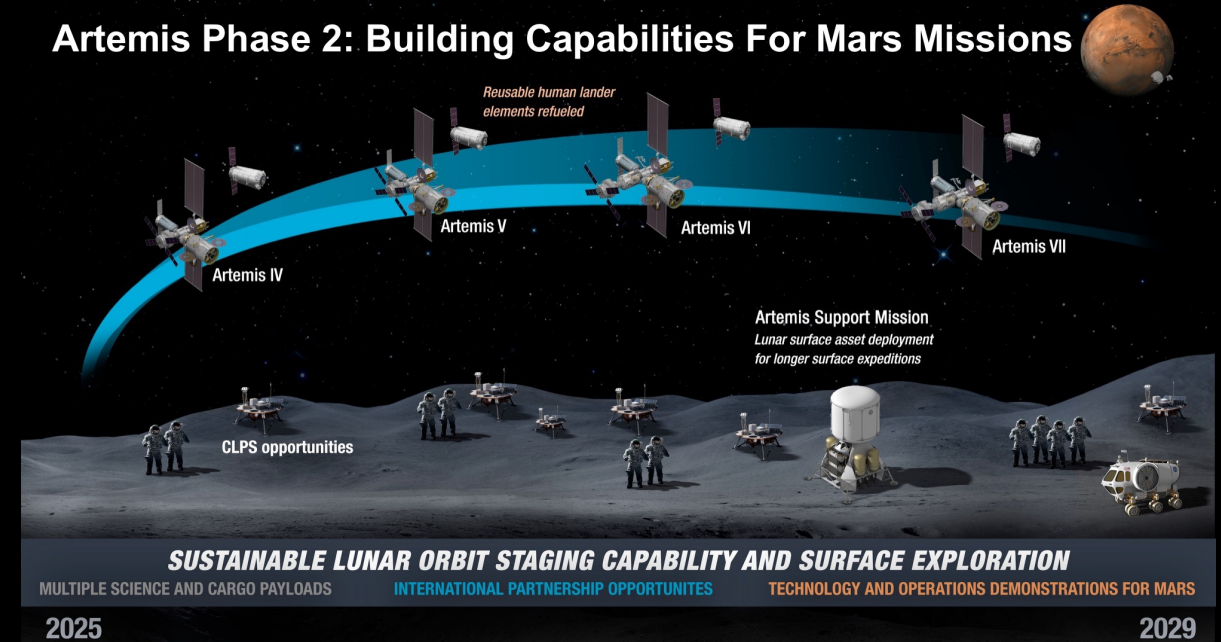
# Artemis: Human Lunar Exploration



## Artemis Phase 1: To the Lunar Surface by 2024



## Artemis Phase 2: Building Capabilities For Mars Missions



- Pre-2024 – CLPS, Robotic Science and Resource Prospecting

- Robotic Science
- Resource Prospecting

- 2024 (-2025) Human Lunar Surface Return

- Unpressurized Mobility
- EVA
- Robotically Pre-deployed science tools and experiments
- Non-Crewed surface mission robotic operations
  - Science, maintenance and inspection, site survey

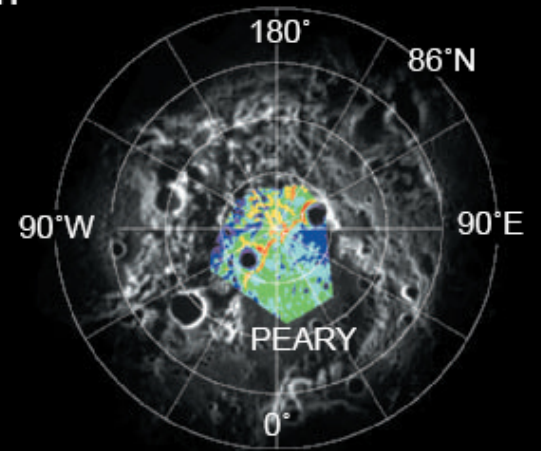
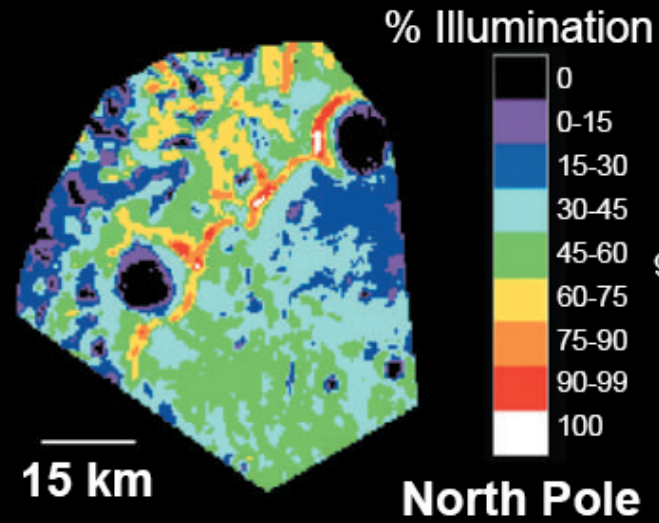
- 2026+ Lunar Mars Mission Analogs and Long-Term Human Lunar Surface Presence

- Pressurized Mobility
- Offloading and deployment
- Pilot scale ISRU
  - Demonstrate use of ISRU
- Surface Power System
- Habitat

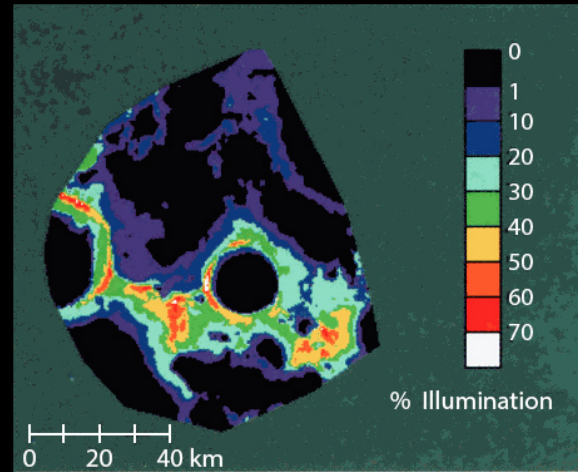
# NASA Artemis is Focused on the Lunar South Pole



“Peaks of Eternal Light” and “Permanently Shadowed Regions” exist on the lunar poles

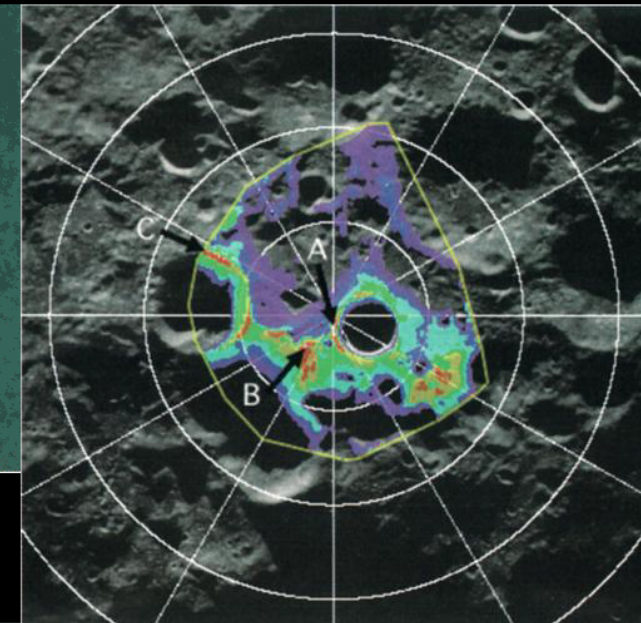


Bussey et al. (2005) *Nature*, 434, 842



**South Pole Illumination**

Bussey et al. (1999) *GRL*, 26, 1187-1190





# Resource Assessment:

## What is Needed Before Polar Water Mining Can Occur

- **Reconnaissance/Exploratory Evaluation:** Evaluation of a larger number of potential PSR resource locations
  - Better understanding of water deposition & theories, geological context, and orbital data verification/usage
  - Better landing site selection for subsequent prospecting and ice mining demonstration missions
  
- **Focused Exploratory:** Evaluation to verify that the model has predicted a potential reserve site.
  - Water subsurface distribution: 1 m depth target is estimated limit for ISRU systems. Greater depths do not trade well with current technology approaches
  - Vertical distribution resolution of 20 cm based on ISRU excavation techniques and water distribution models requiring 4 measurements over depth
  - Water subsurface abundance >1 % detection limit:
  - Determination of water abundances at 50% accuracy or better
  
- **Reserve Mapping:** Obtain broader set of data needed to plan mining con-ops, hardware emplacement, etc
  - Collect critical information to determine if polar water mining is economical (investment in hardware, infrastructure, and operations vs product and usage)
    - Extensive and thorough assessment of the surface/subsurface water/volatile resources over an extended area (1 km x 1 km min.)
    - Build 3-D interpretation of resource data as it is collected; utilize to redirect traverse and data sampling activities and define 'minable' resource locations
  - ISRU Reserve is likely in a PSR, so this asset must survive extended periods in this extreme environment. It is an opportunity to demonstrate technologies also needed for ISRU plant.
  - Reduces risks for technologies and operations associated with polar water mining



# ISRU Lunar Development and Demonstration Timeline

## Reconnaissance, Prospecting, Sampling

*Sub-system Demonstrations: Investigate, sample, and analyze the environment for mining and utilization.*



CLPS Drill Down Select



High-fidelity Simulant Production



Oxygen from Lunar Simulant Ground Demos

Polar Resources Ice Mining Experiment (Prime-1) on CLPS



## Resource Acquisition & Processing

*Follow The Natural Resources: Demonstrations of systems for extraction and processing of raw materials for future mission consumables production and storage.*

Volatiles Investigation Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER)



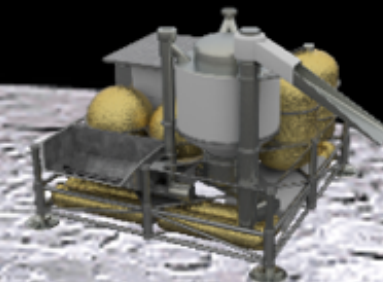
ISRU Subsystem Consumables Extraction Demos



## Pilot Consumable Production

*Sustainable Exploration: Scalable Pilot - Systems demonstrating production of consumables from in-situ resources in order to better support sustained human presence.*

Scalable Pilot - ISRU Systems for Consumable Production





# Lunar Science & Resource Prospecting

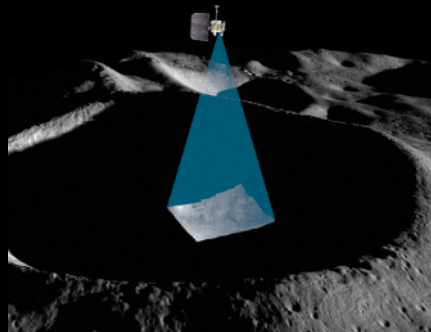


## Orbital Missions

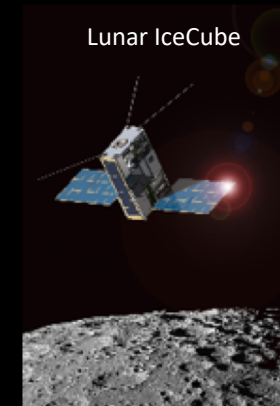
Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter



ShadowCam on Korean Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter



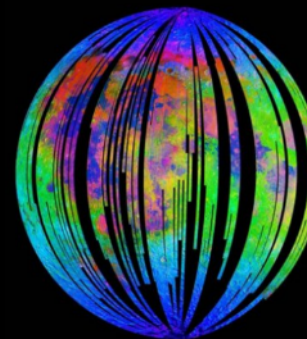
Lunar IceCube



Lunar Flashlight



Lunar Trailblazer (Phase A)



LunaH-Map



## Surface Missions

Astrobotics



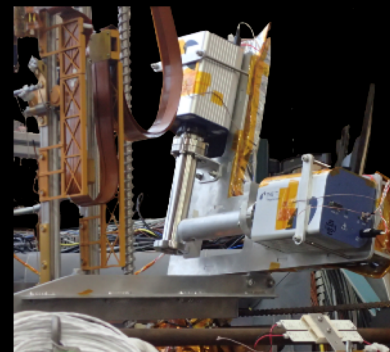
Intuitive Machines



Masten



PRIME-1



VIPER



# PRIME-1 & VIPER

## First Steps toward surface understanding of Polar Water and Volatiles



**Polar Resources Ice Mining Experiment (Prime-1) on CLPS**



**Volatiles Investigation Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER)**

- CLPS mounted payload to detect volatiles at 1-m depth in 2022
- Instruments include:
  - Near InfraRed Volatiles Spectrometer System (NIRVSS)
  - Mass Spectrometer Observing Lunar Operations (MSolo)
  - The Regolith and Ice Drill for Exploring New Terrain (TRIDENT)



- Dec. 2023 mid-lunar day at South Pole
- Measure volatiles at the lunar poles and acquire new key data on lateral and vertical distribution
  - Neutron Spectrometer System (NSS)
  - NIRVSS IR Spec
  - Msolo Mass Spec
  - TRIDENT Drill
- Build lunar resource maps for future exploration sites
  - Long duration operation (months)
  - Traverse 10's km



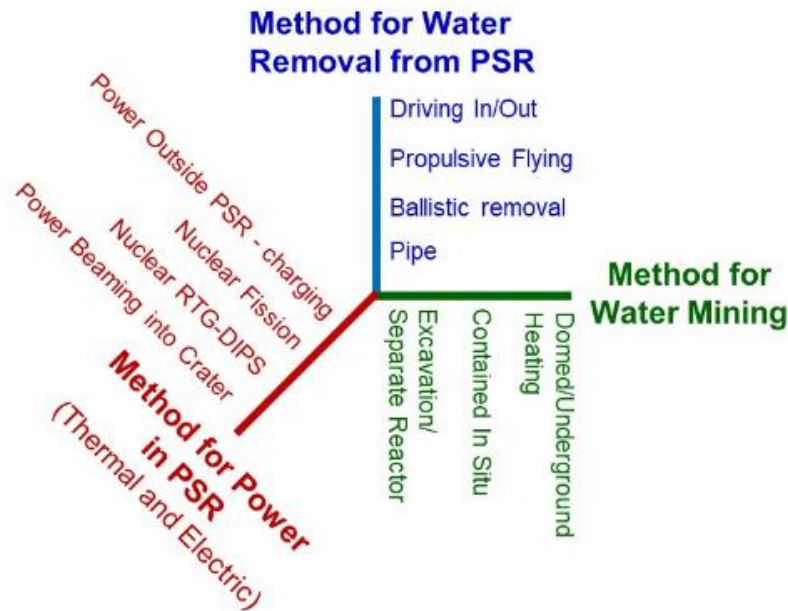
# Mining Polar Water: Overview



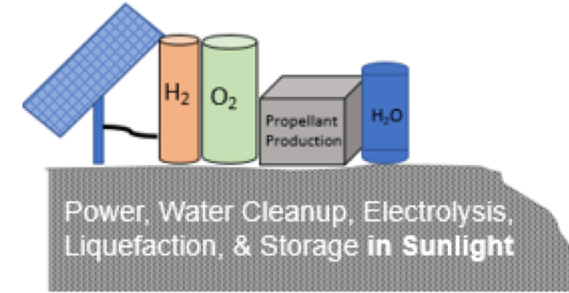
- **Three main drivers for Water Mining Architecture viability**
  - Method of Water removal from Crater
  - Method of Power in Crater
  - Method of Water Mining
- **Application of mining technologies are highly dependent on:**
  - **Resource Depth Access:** How deep the water resource can be for a given concept to work.
  - **Spatial Resource Definition:** How homogenous is the resource
  - **Resource Geotechnical Properties:** How hard and porous is the icy regolith
  - **Volatiles Retention:** How much of the volatiles are captured vs lost to the environment.
  - **Material Handling:** How much interaction is required with the regolith.

## Preliminary Assessment

Concepts	Architecture Option			Status	Resource Depth access	Spatial Resource definition	Volatiles retention	Material Handling
	IRSU plant	Mobile	In-situ					
Auger Dryer	X			Breadboard Laboratory hardware	Moderate (cm)	10s of Meters	Low-moderate	High
Microwave Vessel	X	?		Breadboard Laboratory hardware	Moderate (cm)	10s of Meters	Low-moderate	High
Microwave Zamboni		X	X	Concept Study	Surface	10s of Meters	Low	Low
Vibrating Tray	X	X		Breadboard Laboratory hardware	Moderate (cm)	10s of Meters	Low-moderate	High
Coring Auger		X	X	Breadboard Laboratory hardware	Deep (m)	Meters	High	Moderate
Heated Dome			X	Concept Study	Surface	Meter	High	Low
Heated batch (Resolve EBU)	X	?		Field demonstrations	Moderate (cm)	10s of Meters	Low-moderate	High
Water jet/Dome			X	Concept Study	Moderate (cm)	Meter	High	Low

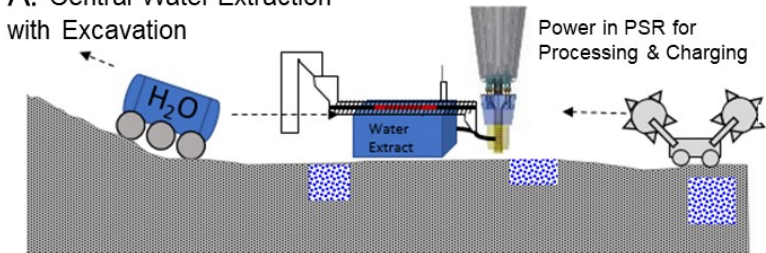


In Sunlit Region; Crater Rim

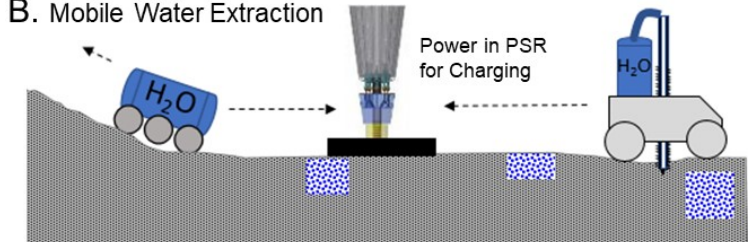


In Permanently Shadowed Region

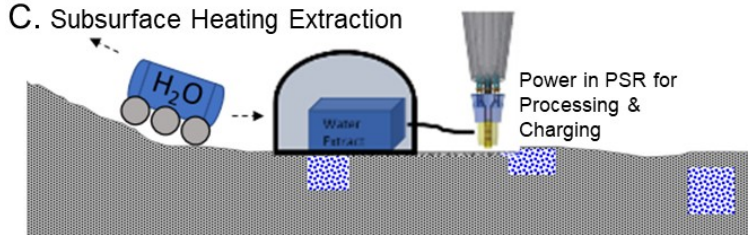
A. Central Water Extraction with Excavation



B. Mobile Water Extraction



C. Subsurface Heating Extraction



# Mining Polar Water: Initial Production Plant Concept

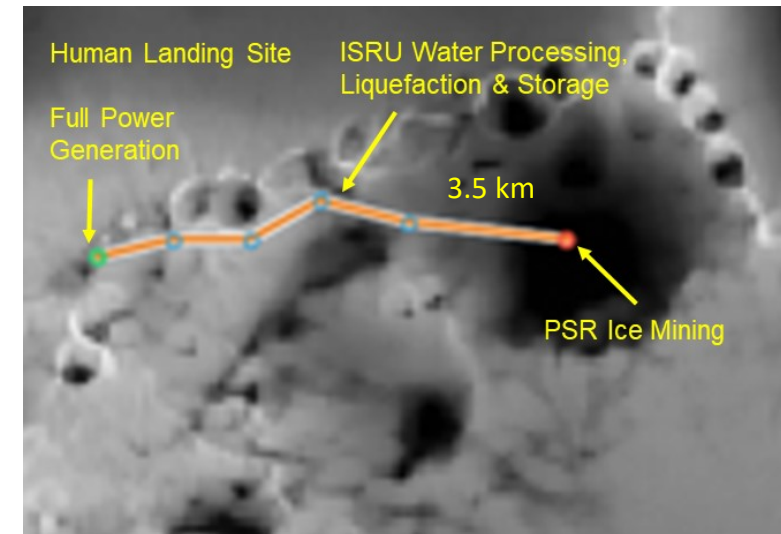


## Five Systems for Lunar Ice Mining

1. Ridge ISRU: Water transfer, cleaning, storage, and electrolysis, and water tankers
2. Ridge Cryo: Stationary O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> liquefaction and storage, transfer, mobile O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> tankers
3. Ridge ISRU Power : Solar array, regenerative fuel cell (nuclear reactor is optional)
4. PSR ISRU: excavator(s), regolith processing to extract water, water collection/capture, water transfer
5. PSR Power: ~13 KW
  - Nuclear reactor & power cart/cable (1.5 km) in PSR
  - Power transfer from Ridge ISRU Power System via power cart/cable (5 km) or power beaming

## Nominal Mission

- 15,300 kg water / year (225 days continuous); 13,600 / 1700 kg (O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>)
  - H<sub>2</sub> production is the driver for O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> propulsion systems
- Water source: **5%** water ice particles mixed and frozen in with regolith, underneath a **20 cm** desiccated layer
- Water transported from PSR to Ridge-based plant via water tanker **tbd** (>20) times per year
- Nom. traverse path <15 deg. slopes between Ridge and PSR ISRU Systems



Site selected for Ice Mining Study Only



# Oxygen Extraction: Overview



## Preliminary Assessment

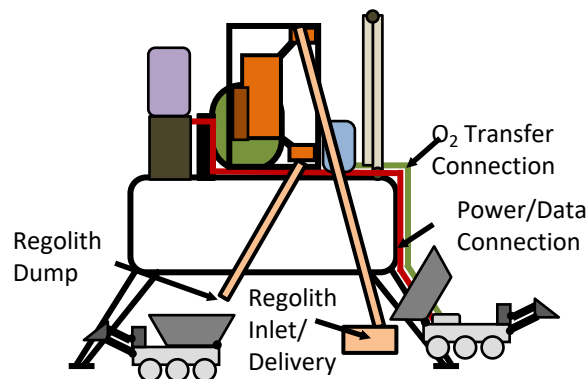
	O <sub>2</sub> Extraction			
	H <sub>2</sub> Reduction	CH <sub>4</sub> Reduction	Molten Oxide Electrolysis	Ionic Liquid Reduction
Resource Knowledge	Good - Orbital High Resolution & Apollo Samples			
Site Specificity	Moderate to High (Ilmenite & Pyroclastic Glasses Preferred)	Low to Moderate (Iron oxides and Silicates)		
Temperature to Extract	Moderate (900 C)	High (>1600 C)	High (>1600 C)	Low (100+ C)
Energy per Kilogram	High	Moderate	Moderate	?
Extraction Efficiency wt%*	1 to 5	5 to 15	20 to 40	?
TRL	4-5	4-5	3+	2-3
Mars Forward	Moderate	High	Low	Low

\*kg O<sub>2</sub>/kg bulk regolith

- Over 20 processes have been identified to extract oxygen from regolith
  - Components required range from TRL 3 to TRL 9
  - Typically, as processing temps increase, O<sub>2</sub> yield increases, and technical and engineering challenges increase
- Constellation Program focused on three processes
  - Hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) reduction – System to TRL 4-5 with Analog test in 2008
  - Carbothermal (CH<sub>4</sub>) reduction – System to TRL 4-5 with Analog test in 2010
  - Molten regolith electrolysis (MRE) – TRL 3
- NASA/NSF pursuing several processes for Artemis
  - Carbothermal (SNC and Pioneer), Plasma H<sub>2</sub> Reduction (KSC), MRE (KSC and Lunar Resources), Ionic Liquids (MSFC, SBIR), Vapor Pyrolysis (SBIR)

## Focus on lunar polar region

- Highland regolith and long duration sunlight



## ConOps for Carbothermal Reduction

- Regolith delivered is analyzed for mineral type and quantity and fed into size sorting and mineral beneficiation unit (if required)
- Regolith in inlet hopper fed into O<sub>2</sub> Reaction Reactor and processed
- Reactant and product gases are monitored and controlled
- Any water produced is condensed and analyzed for contaminants
- Water is cleaned and sent to clean water storage tank
- Clean water is transferred to Water Processing Unit and electrolyzed into O<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>
  - O<sub>2</sub> is measured for contaminants and transferred to O<sub>2</sub> Storage Unit
- O<sub>2</sub> Storage unit dries, liquefies, and stores O<sub>2</sub>
- Processed regolith is discharged to outlet hopper to cool and be analyzed for change in mineral properties
- Processed regolith discharged from outlet hopper to rover

# Oxygen Extraction: Initial Production Plant Concept

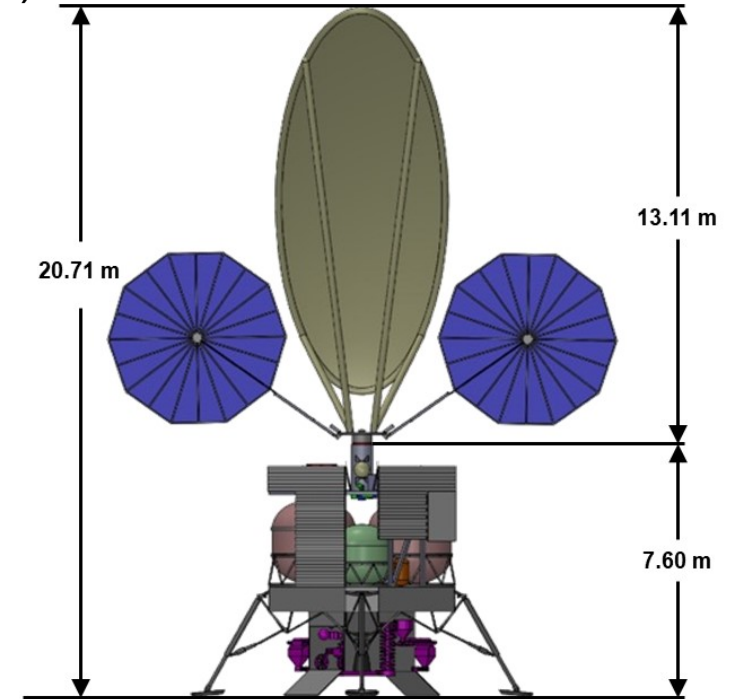
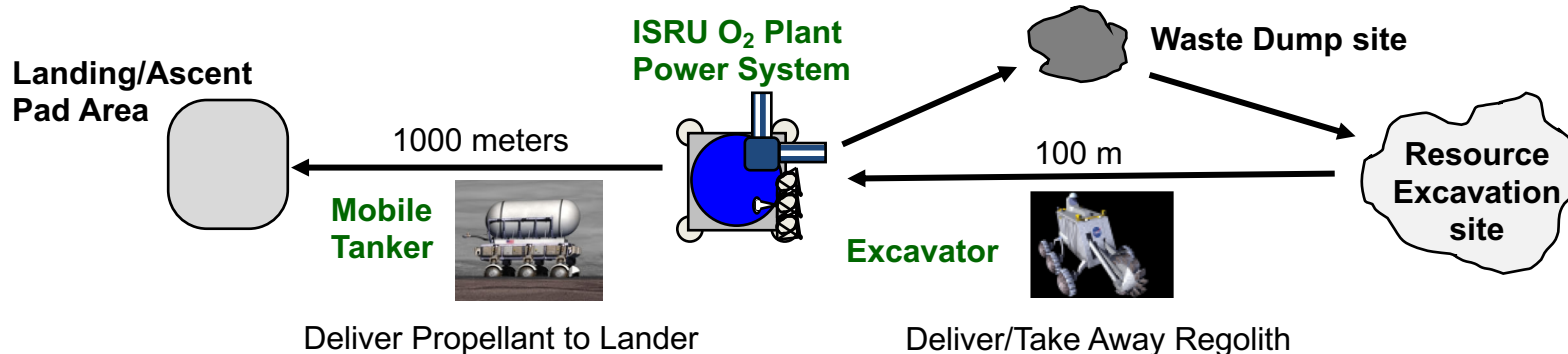


## Four Systems for Lunar Ice Mining

1. Regolith Excavation/Delivery: excavators, regolith pre-processing (size/mineral sorting), delivery, transfer
2. Oxygen Extraction: regolith processing/oxygen generation, O<sub>2</sub> cleaning, reactant regeneration
3. Cryogenic: Stationary O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> liquefaction and storage, transfer, mobile O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> tankers
  - Stationary O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> unit either lander descent tanks or dedicated/deployed
4. ISRU Power: ~55 KWe or 20 KWe/35 KWt
  - Solar array & regenerative fuel cell for electrical (nuclear reactor optional)
  - Solar concentrator for thermal energy (ex. Carbothermal reduction)

## Nominal Mission

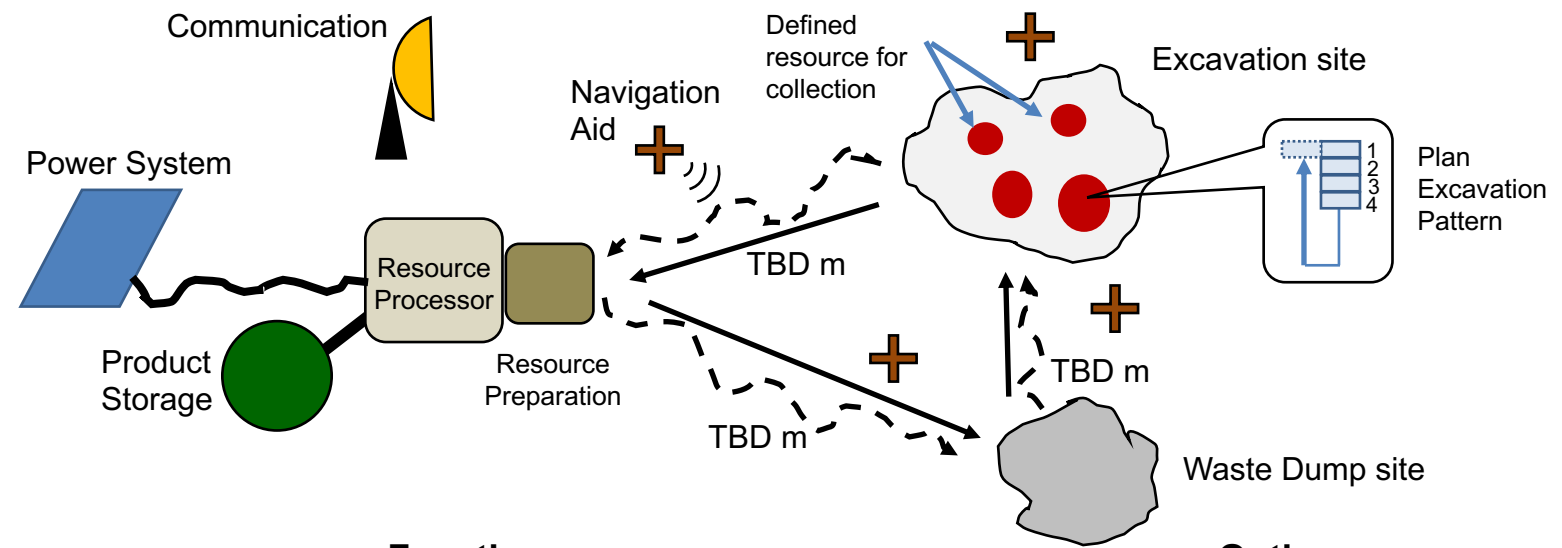
- 10,000 kg oxygen / yr (225 days continuous); 3 modules of 3,500 kg each
- Highland regolith (iron poor)
- Regolith delivery/removal traverse paths 100 m to 1000 m
  - Multiple traverses per day
  - Roads/surface stabilization may be required



NOTE: Overall Concentrator height is 11.65 m with a width of 5.24 m

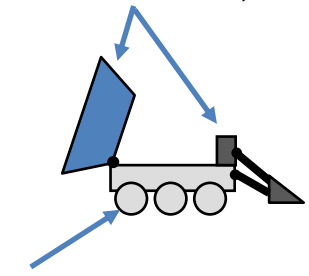
NOTE: Both solar arrays create a width of 15.34 m

# ISRU Concepts of Operation – Oxygen/Metal Extraction



## Implements

- Removable / Exchangeable
- Common structure, data, electrical interface



## High Traction Mobility Platform

- Removable/ Exchangeable Parts
- Common motors/parts with Implements

## Functions

- Traverse back and forth from desired endpoints: plant, resource zone, dump zone
- Rover selects location for drilling/excavation
- Device interacts with soil/regolith
- Rover interacts with ISRU Plant
- ISRU Plant processes regolith

## Options

- Smart control and sensors on rover: it selects its own path and avoids obstacles
- Path selected on Earth, rover follows path: internal nav or external beacons
- Patterns / locations selected on Earth
- Location determined as rover arrives based on past knowledge and site survey
- Rover goes to location: internal nav, external beacons, and/or imaging/LIDAR
- Operate extraction device depending on material: drill, auger, downhole scoop, bucket-wheel/drum, ripper, etc
- Pre-planned motions, force-feedback autonomous, human controlled.
- Locates and delivers soil/regolith for processing; Locates and receives spent regolith
- Locates dirty water transfer connection for On-rover soil processing
- Locates and connects to charging port for battery or fuel cell resupply
- Pre-established operating conditions and timelines
- Regolith pre/post evaluation for process efficiency evaluation and adjustment

= Unprepared path  
 = Prepared path  
 TBD = 100 to 1000 m

■ **Central Control** – Commands multiple assets  
 ■ **Smart Platforms** – Each is aware of what the others are doing

# Strategy For ISRU Insertion into Human Exploration

## Maximize Ground Development – Use Flight for Critical Information and Eliminate Risk



- **Perform ground develop of hardware and systems until flight decision**
  - Develop and advance ISRU technologies to enable acquisition of resources and processing into mission consumables
  - Develop lunar ISRU components and subsystems with a Mars-forward application
  - **Engage industry and Academia** through multiple means, including public-private partnerships, to lay the foundation for long-term lunar economic development
- **Utilize CLPS precursor missions to:**
  - Understand lunar polar resources for technology development, site selection, mission planning
  - Obtain critical data (ex. regolith properties, validate feasibility of ISRU process)
  - Demonstrate proof-of-concept and reduce risk
    - Fly technologies that are most dependent on interacting with the regolith
    - Fly the components that need to interact with large amounts of real lunar soil in a vacuum environment to prove out longevity/robustness
  - Demonstrate critical ISRU hardware and validate Pilot/Full scale designs
- **Perform end-to-end ISRU Production Pilot mission** at sufficient scale to eliminate risk of Full scale system
  - Utilize product from Pilot mission in subsequent human lander mission (ex. oxygen for EVA or extended stay)
- **Design and Fly Full scale ISRU Production Capability** around redundant modules with margin for reusable lander and/or hopper
- **ISRU must first be demonstrated on the Moon before it can be mission-critical**
  - STMD is breaking the 'Catch-22' cycle of past ISRU development priority and architecture insertion issues by developing and flying ISRU demonstrations and capabilities to the Pilot Plant phase.



# ISRU Development and Implementation Challenges



## Space Resource Challenges

- R1 What resources exist at the site of exploration that can be used?**
- R2 What are the uncertainties associated with these resources?**  
Form, amount, distribution, contaminants, terrain
- R3 How to address planetary protection requirements?**  
Forward contamination/sterilization, operating in a special region, creating a special region

## ISRU Operation Challenges

- O1 How to operate in extreme environments?**  
Temperature, pressure/vacuum, dust, radiation, grounding
- O2 How to operate in low gravity or micro-gravity environments?**  
Drill/excavation force vs mass, soil/liquid motion, thermal convection/radiation
- O3 How to achieve long duration, autonomous operation and failure recovery?**  
No crew, non-continuous monitoring, time delay
- O4 How to survive and operate after long duration dormancy or repeated start/stop cycles with lunar sun/shadow cycles?**  
'Stall' water, lubricants, thermal cycles

## ISRU Technical Challenges

- T1 Is it technically and economically feasible to collect, extract, and process the resource?**  
Energy, Life, Performance
- T2 How to achieve high reliability and minimal maintenance requirements?**  
Thermal cycles, mechanisms/pumps, sensors/ calibration, wear

## ISRU Integration Challenges

- I1 How are other systems designed to incorporate ISRU products?**
- I2 How to optimize at the architectural level rather than the system level?**
- I3 How to manage the physical interfaces and interactions between ISRU and other systems?**

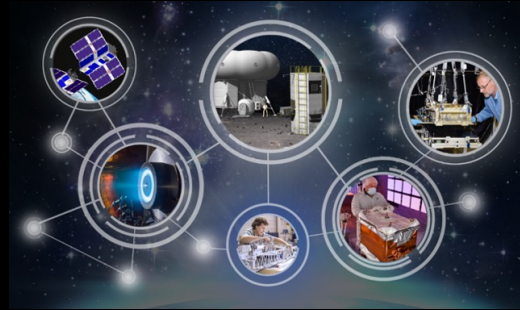
***Scale up, Long-duration, & Environmental testing with Realistic simulants Required***

# NASA Mission Directorate Roles in ISRU



## Space Technology (STMD)

- Primary Developer for ISRU
  - Technology development through all TRLs (NIAC, SBIR, ESI/ECF, GCD, Tipping Point, TDM, CIF)
  - Lunar Surface Innovation Initiative: New for FY20 - ISRU development & CLPS payloads
- ISRU Flight Activities
  - MOXIE
  - PRIME-1
  - Future CLPS



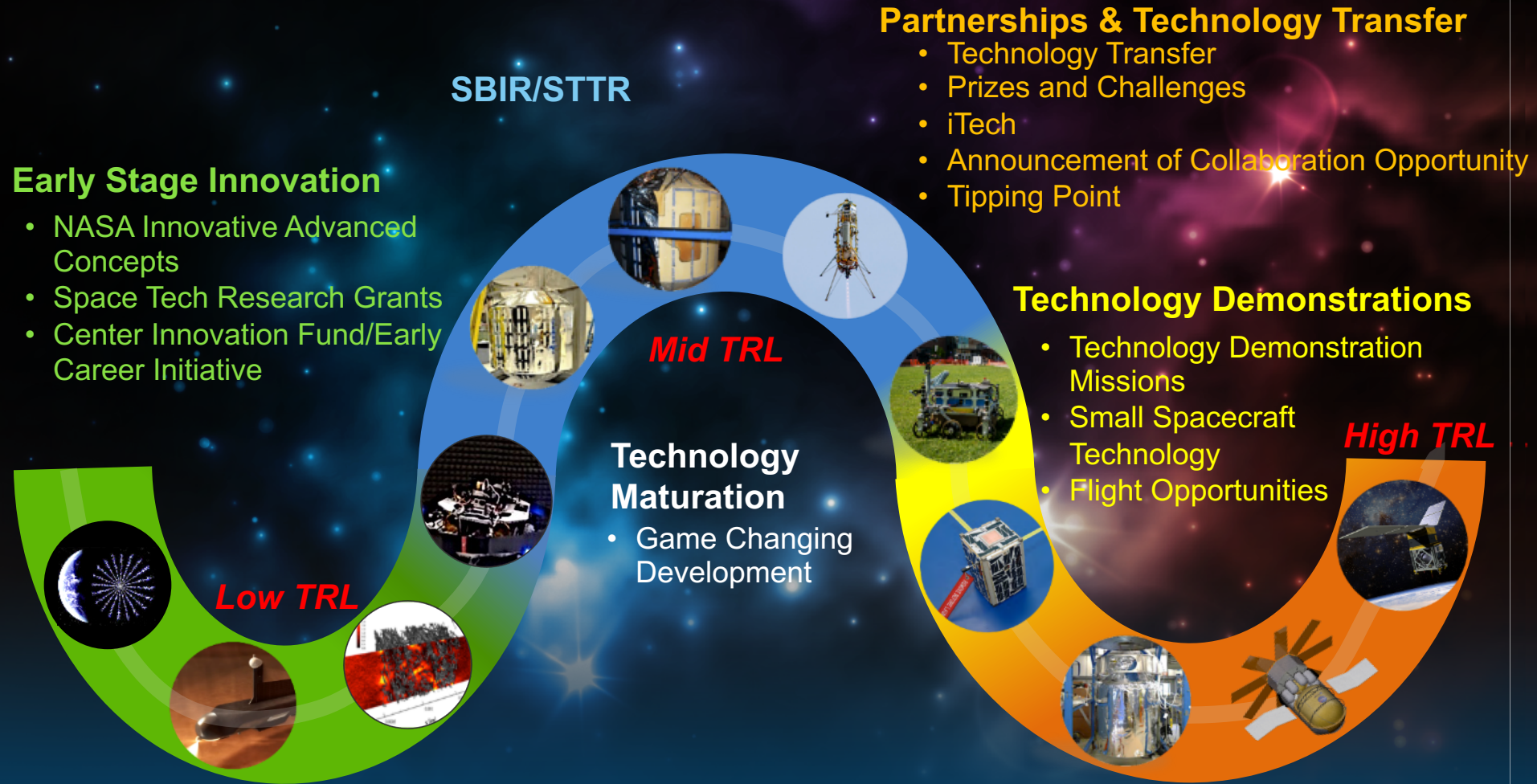
## Science (SMD)

- Primary Supplier of Resource and Landing Site Information
  - ISRU Technology and System Development
    - Relevant technologies from missions, ROSES and internal development
  - ISRU Flight Activities
    - Hosting MOXIE on Mars 2020 Rover
    - CLPS Resource Assessment Instruments
    - Dev. And Advancement of Lunar Instruments
    - VIPER
    - Lunar Trailblazer SIMPLEX-2

## Human Exploration & Operation (HEOMD)

- Primary Customer for ISRU
  - Mission requirements, needs, and timelines
  - Mission Element Leads: Gateway, Human Lander System (HLS), Lunar Surface Capability (LSC)
  - Full scale ISRU systems & mission implementation
- ISRU Full Scale Implementation
- ISRU Flight Activities
  - MOXIE
  - Lunar Cubesats
  - ShadowCam

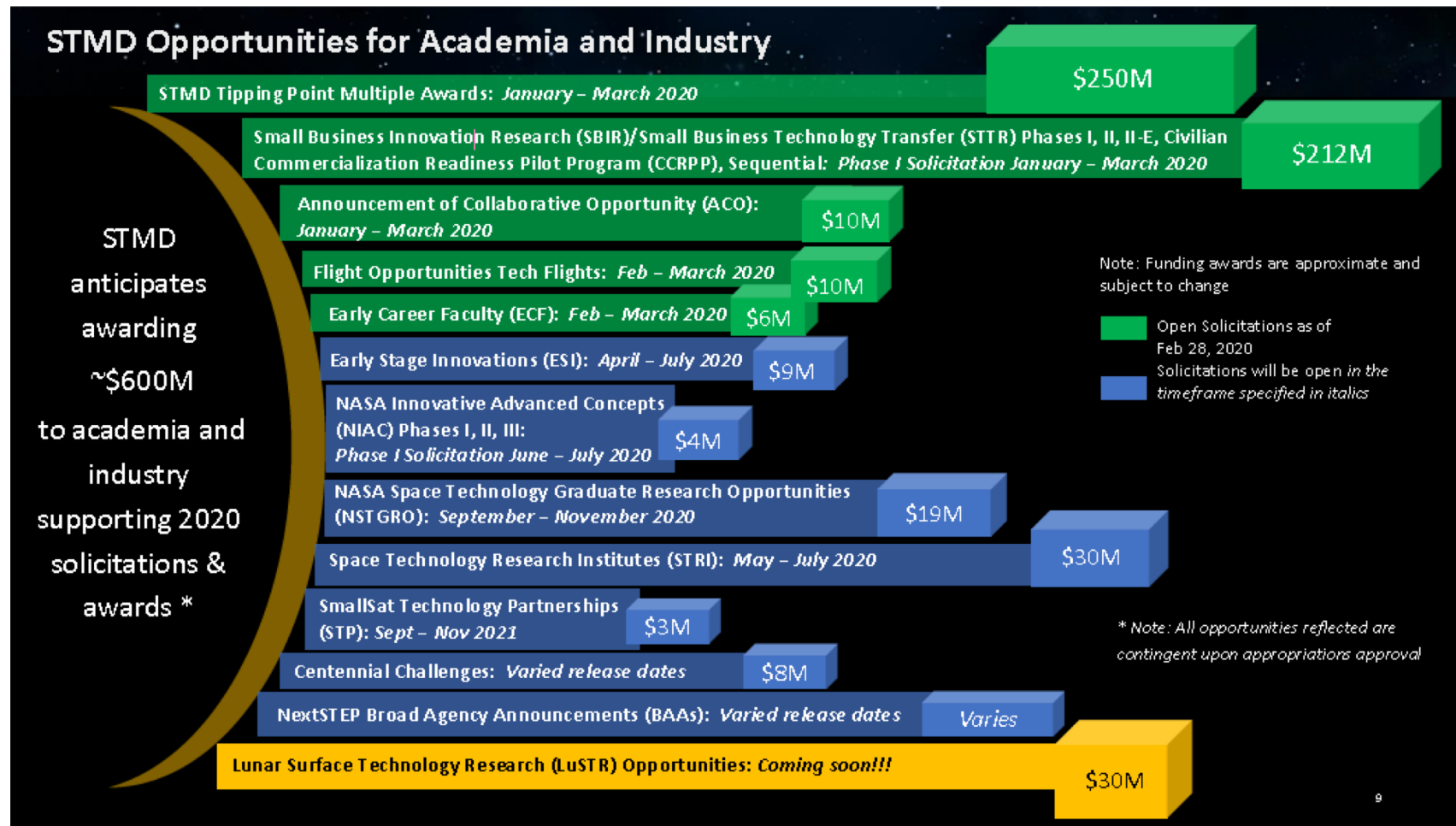
# STMD Technology Pipeline



TECHNOLOGY PIPELINE



# ISRU Technology/Capability Needs Are Coordinated Across Multiple Solicitations depending on TRL and Developer Target



- NASA internal solicitation/competitions through PPBE and CIF activities
- Resource Assessment instruments also covered in multiple SMD solicitations: NPLP, LSITP, DALI, PRISM



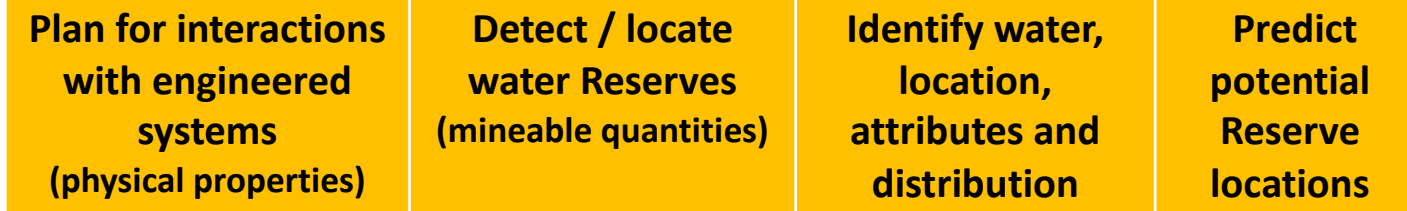
# Backup

# ISRU and Science: Commonalities and Differences on Polar Resource Assessment

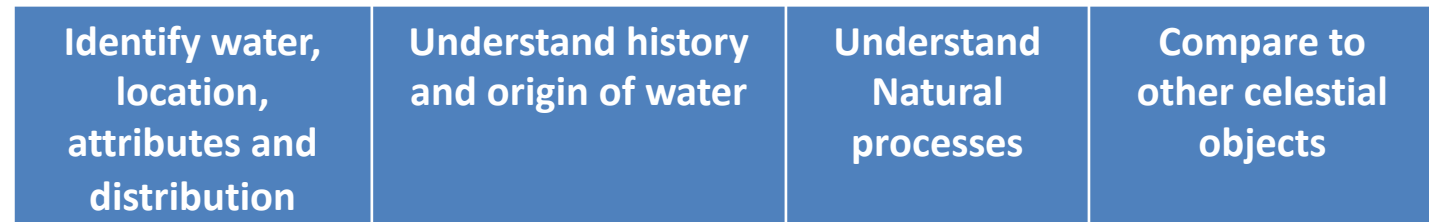


While Science and ISRU have common measurement needs that will support one another; distinct data sets are required for each.

## ISRU Interest



- ISRU objectives are targeted; focused on applied outcomes. There is an essential relationship to engineering.



**Critical Commonalities**

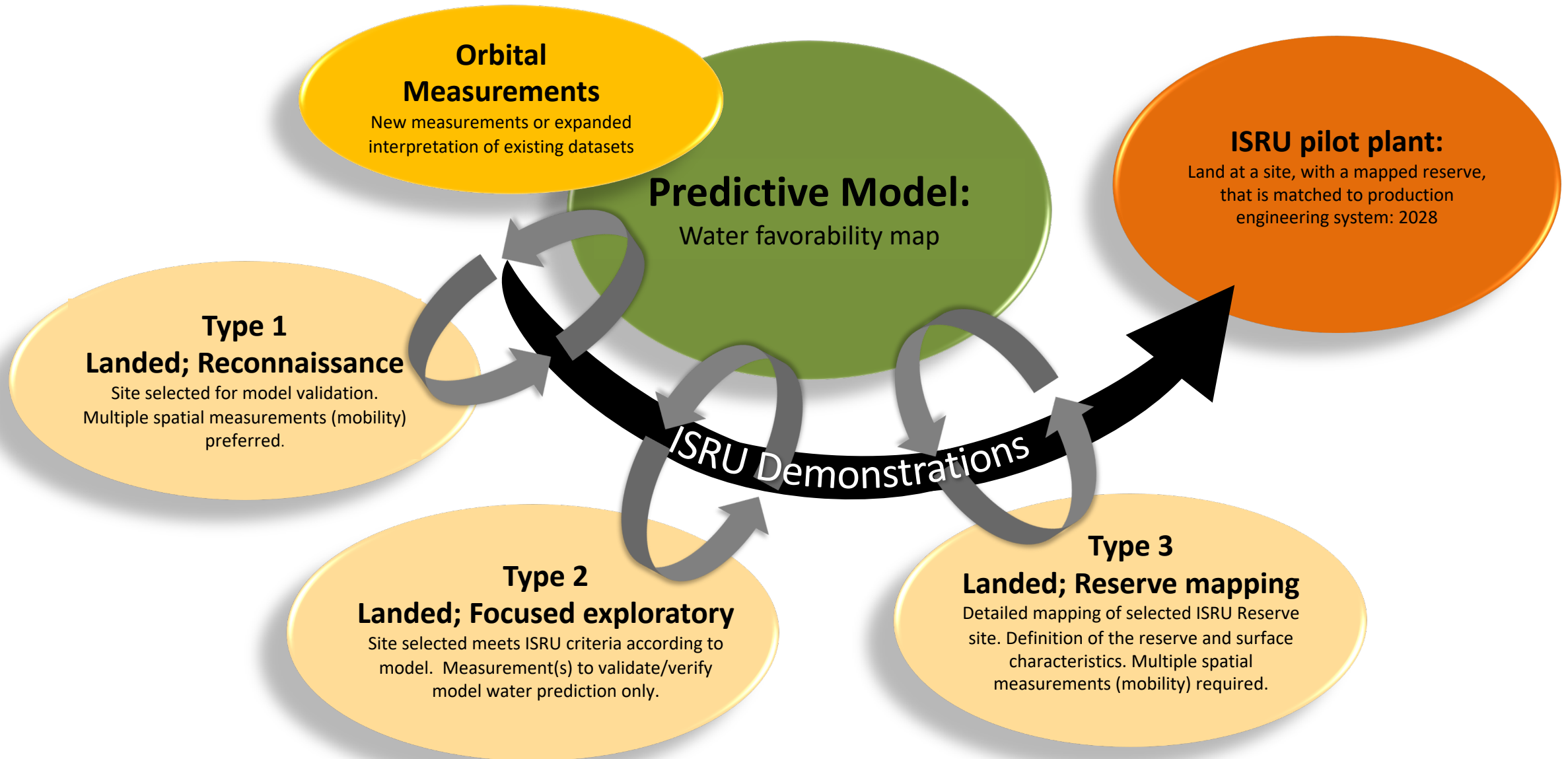
## Science Interest

- Science objectives are broad, with a wide variety of data required to build knowledge about natural processes.



# Resource Assessment:

## Measurement Strategy Leading to Final Site Selection and ISRU Pilot Plant



# SMD Lunar Discovery and Exploration Program



## Instrument Development and Delivery

- Maturation of instrument concepts (DALI)
  - 10 teams funded to mature CLPS instruments:
- Instruments for First CLPS Missions
  - NASA Provided Lunar Payloads (NPLP) – 13 instruments selected
  - Lunar Surface Instruments, technology & exploration (LSITP) – 12 instruments
- Instruments for next CLPS Missions
  - Payloads and Research Investigations on the Surface of the Moon (PRISM)

## Ground Development and Science

- Long duration rover investments
- Apollo Next Generation Sample Analysis (ANGSA)

## Current and Future Flight Missions

- Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) Mission Operations
- Lunar SmallSats
  - Cubesats/SmallSats delivered by CLPS
  - SIMPLEX: Lunar Trailblazer
- Commercial Lunar Payload Services
  - CPLS 1 & CPLS 2 in 2021: Astrobotics & Intuitive Machines
  - CLPS 3 in 2022: Masten
  - Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) in 2023
  - Follow on missions approximately every 24 months

## Recently Selected for Development for CLPS

### Mineral

- ★ ★ ★ ★ NIRVSS – InfraRed Spec
- ★ ★ ★ ★ L-CIRiS - Compact InfraRed Imaging System
- ★ ★ ★ ★ eXTraterrestrial Regolith Analyzer for Lunar Soil – XRD/XRF
- ★ ★ ★ ★ Ultra-Compact Imaging Spectrometer – shortwave IR
- ★ ★ ★ ★ BECA - gamma ray spectrometer w/ pulsed neutrons

### Volatile Direct

- ★ ★ ★ ★ MSOLO – mass spectrometer
- ★ ★ ★ ★ PITMS – ion trap mass spectrometer
- ★ ★ ★ ★ CRATER – laser based mass spectrometer

### Hydrogen

- ★ ★ ★ ★ NSS – Neutron Spectrometer
- ★ ★ ★ ★ Neutron Measurements at the Lunar Surface,
- ★ ★ ★ ★ BECA - gamma ray spectrometer w/ pulsed neutrons
- ★ ★ ★ ★ NIRVSS – InfraRed Spec (surface and bound H<sub>2</sub>O/OH)

### Imager

- ★ ★ ★ ★ Heimdall - digital video recorder/4 cameras

### Acquisition

- ★ ★ ★ ★ PlanetVac - pneumatic transfer
- ★ ★ ★ ★ SAMPLR - arm scoop
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ColdARM - arm scoop
- ★ ★ ★ ★ Trident - auger drill
- ★ ★ ★ ★ PVEx - Coring drill

### MicroRovers

- ★ ★ ★ ★ CubeRover (SBIR)
- ★ ★ ★ ★ MoonRanger (LSITP)
- ★ ★ ★ ★ L-PUFFER/CADRE (JPL)
- ★ ★ ★ ★ NeuRover (SBIR)
- ★ ★ ★ ★ Big Ideas Challenge (Universities)

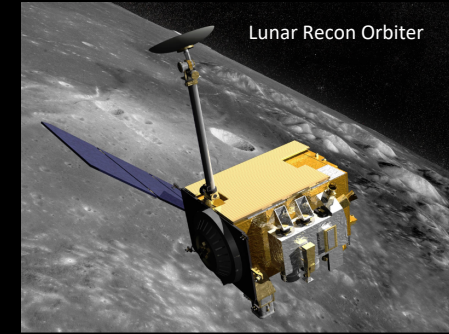
- ★ ★ ★ ★ Astrobotics 2021
- ★ ★ ★ ★ Masten 2022
- ★ ★ ★ ★ PRIME-1
- ★ ★ ★ ★ VIPER

# Current NASA ISRU-Related Instruments & Orbital Missions



## Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) – 2009 to Today

- Lyman-Alpha Mapping Project (LAMP) – UV;
- Lunar Exploration Neutron Detector (LEND) - Neutron;
- Diviner Lunar Radiometer Experiment (DLRE) – IR;
- Cosmic Ray Telescope for the Effects of Radiation (CRaTER) – Radiation;
- Lunar Orbiter Laser Altimeter (LOLA)
- Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC) – Sun/Imaging;
- Mini-RF Radar



## Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLLO) – 2022

- ShadowCam Map reflectance within permanently shadowed craters



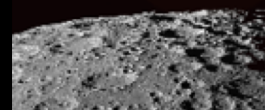
## Science/Prospecting Cubesats (SLS Artemis-1 2021)

- Lunar Flashlight: Near IR laser and spectrometer to look into shadowed craters for volatiles
- Lunar IceCube: Broadband InfraRed Compact High Resolution Explorer Spectrometer
- LunaH-MAP: Two neutron spectrometers to produce maps of near-surface hydrogen (H)
- Skyfire/LunIR: Spectroscopy and thermography for surface characterization



## Lunar Trailblazer (SIMPLEx) – TBD

- Miniaturized imaging spectrometer and multispectral thermal imager





# Location to Reduce/Eliminate ISRU Challenges/Risks



## - Ground vs Flight

- Most challenges and risks to ISRU development and incorporation can be eliminated through design and testing under Earth analog or environmental chamber testing at the component, subsystem, and system level
  - **Adequate simulants are critical for valid Earth based testing**
- 1 ▪ Critical challenges/risks associated with fully understanding the extraterrestrial resource (form, concentrations, contaminants, etc.) and ISRU system operation under actual environmental conditions for extended periods of time can only be performed on the extraterrestrial surface
- 2 ▪ Product quality based on actual *in situ* resource used should be validated at the destination
- ISRU precursors/demonstrations are extremely beneficial for validation of Earth-based testing and analysis

ISRU Challenge/Risk		Earth	Orbit	Surface
R1	What resources exist at the site that can be used?	S	S	P
R2	What are the uncertainties associated with these resources?	S	S	P
R3	How to Address planetary protection requirements?	P		V
T1	Is it technically feasible to collect, extract, & process resources?	P		V
T2	What is needed to achieve long duration, autonomous operation?	P		V
O1	What is needed to achieve high reliability and/or maintenance?	P		V
O2	What is needed to operate in extreme environments?	S/V	P <sub>NEA</sub>	P
O3	What is needed to operate in low/micro gravity?	S	P <sub>NEA</sub>	P
O4	How to survive and operate after long duration dormancy ?	P		S
I1	How can other systems be designed to use ISRU products?	P		V/P
I2	How to optimize designs at the architecture level with ISRU?	P		V
I3	How to manage ISRU interfaces/interactions with other systems?	P		V

P = Primary Location; S = Support Location; V = Validation Location

1  
1  
2