

The NASA Robotic Lunar Exploration Program

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NASA has announced plans to return to the Moon with both robotic and human exploration. The return to the Moon has two objectives: 1) scientific research on the Moon and 2) preparation for human exploration of Mars. The initial focus of the robotic program is on precision landing and hazard avoidance and determining the concentration of H in the lunar polar regions in support of site selection. In many ways site selection is the keystone to lunar planning and drives the lunar program in terms of both near-term and long-term planning.