



Italian vision for Moon exploration

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By the end of 2005, the Italian Space Agency made the proposal to the Italian government to elaborate a “Vision” for a national programme of Moon exploration. This topic has been inserted on a long term prospective and with adequate resources in the National AeroSpace Plan 2006-2008 approved by the Italian government early 2006.

After having identified together with the national scientific and industrial community the key elements to be examine such as scientific objectives and main building blocks of the programme, through an invitation to tender, ASI has issued in July 2006, 16 contracts to carry out studies related to each key element.

Three studies are devoted to the science of the Moon and its resources, the observation of the Earth from the Moon and the observation of the universe from the Moon. All the others are dedicated to technologies for transportation, platforms and payloads. The scientific objectives derived from the scientific studies constitute the rationale to build and implement the roadmap for the Italian exploration of the Moon. The technological studies are issuing solutions and tools to reach the scientific objectives having priority.

The Italian “Vision” resulting from this exercise will be available by Summer this year. The preliminary outcomes of these studies will be presented in order to illustrate what are the scientific objectives of this national programme and what kind of missions could be planned accordingly.

The presentation is also aimed at exciting curiosity from potential partners for discussion and collaborations in synergy with other national/international programmes.