



Summary from ISU Symposium 2007: Why the Moon?

J.B. Farrow (1), J.D. Burke (2)

(1) International Space University (ISU) , (2) The Planetary Society (Farrow@isu.isunet.edu)

Each year, ISU offers an international symposium addressing a timely topic from an interdisciplinary, international perspective. These symposia draw approximately 150-200 leading members of the space sector from agencies, industry and academia worldwide and ISU students also participate as part of their Masters program. In late 2005, our 10th Annual Symposium took the title ‘Space Exploration: Who, What, When, Where, Why?’ and looked in a very broad way at human and robotic missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond. Based on the success of that event, and recognizing the increasing focus on the Moon as the first step in the Vision for Space Exploration, we chose the title ‘Why the Moon?’ for our 11th Annual Symposium which took place from February 21 to 23, 2007 at ISU’s Central Campus in Strasbourg, France.

The Symposium was organized around the following six themes, each of which was the subject of a half-day session:

1. Destination Moon (a review of the goals and plans for lunar exploration)
2. The Moon as a Stimulus for Public Engagement
3. Scientific Investigations at the Moon
4. The Moon as a Technology Driver and a Test-bed for Further Exploration
5. The Moon as a Business Opportunity
6. Legal and Policy Issues in Returning to the Moon

This invited talk will summarize key points from presentations and discussions in these sessions with some emphasis on aspects relating to social benefits of lunar exploration.