



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS  
AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

+ NASA Homepage  
+ NASA en Español  
+ Contact NASA

# Solar System Exploration

News & Events

Sitemap

Dictionary

FAQ

SSE Home > News & Events > Calendars

Search



Home



News & Events



Calendars

News Archive

FAQ

Visiting NASA

Planets



Missions



Science & Technology



Multimedia



People



Kids



Education



History



## News Archive

### NASA Spacecraft to Carry Russian Science Instruments

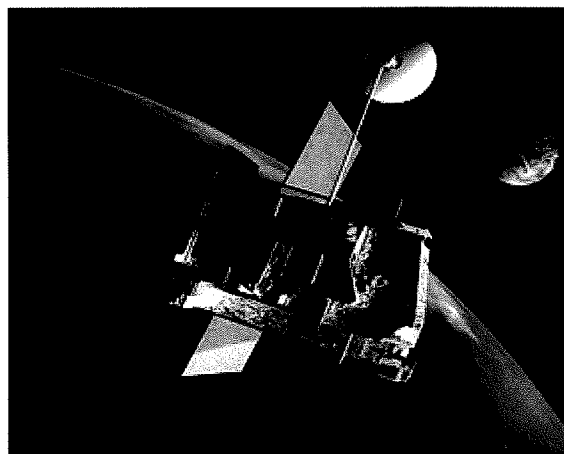
10.03.07

(Source: NASA)

WASHINGTON - NASA and the Russian Federal Space Agency Roscosmos have agreed to carry two Russian scientific instruments on NASA spacecraft that will conduct unprecedented robotic missions to the moon and Mars.

NASA Administrator Michael Griffin and Roscosmos head Anatoly Perminov signed agreements in Moscow on Oct. 3 to add the instruments to two future missions: the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, scheduled to launch in October 2008, and the Mars Science Laboratory, an advanced robotic rover scheduled to launch in 2009.

Russia's Lunar Exploration Neutron Detector on the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter will search for evidence of water ice and help understand astronauts' exposure to radiation during future trips to the moon. The instrument will map concentrations of hydrogen that may be found on and just beneath the lunar surface.



Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

Roscosmos' Dynamic Albedo of Neutrons instrument on the Mars Science Laboratory will measure hydrogen to analyze neutrons interacting with the Martian surface. The principal investigator for both instruments is Igor Mitrofanov of the Institute for Space Research of the Russian Academy of Science.

"Russia's contribution to the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and Mars Science Laboratory missions continues a rich and long-standing tradition of cooperation between NASA and Russia for scientific research in space," Griffin said. "The Institute for Space Research has a track record of delivering excellent instrumentation, and we are delighted to have international participation on these missions to explore the moon and send a robotic laboratory to Mars."

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter will circle the moon for at least a year, obtaining measurements necessary to identify future robotic and human landing sites. It also will identify potential lunar resources and document aspects of the lunar radiation environment.

The Mars Science Laboratory rover is a mobile research platform that will explore a local region of the Martian surface as a potential habitat for past or present life. The rover will carry a suite of highly capable analytic and remote sensing instruments to investigate planetary processes that influence habitability, including the role of water.

For more about NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission and the Mars Exploration Program, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov>

### News Archive Search

Target:  Year:

Mission:  Month:

Category:  Show:  result page

C

Explore more of NASA on the Web:



- + Awards & Recognition
- + Send to a Friend
- + The Vision for Space Exploration
- + NASA Solar System Exploration Roadmap
- + Privacy/Copyright/Image Use Policy



Site Curators: Kirk Munsell, Harman Sm  
 Science Writer: Samantha Harvey  
 Webmaster: David Martin  
 NASA Official: Marilyn Lindstrom  
 Last Updated: 10.03.07  
 + Contact Us