

nature.com

The Great Beyond

The ~~Nature~~ blog that rounds up science news from around the world.

[« Ones that got away](#) | [Main](#) | [President's bioethics council disbanded](#) >

Lunar mission on its way - June 19, 2009

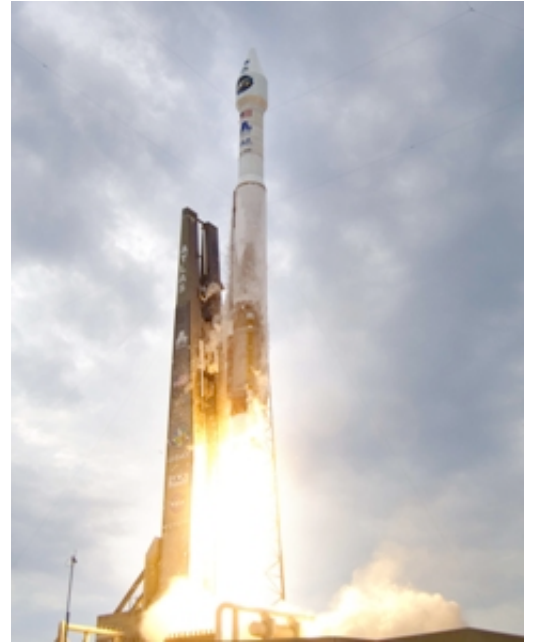
[Bookmark in Connotea](#)

NASA's return to the Moon is off and running. The [Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter](#) and [Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite](#) both rode into the sky over Cape Canaveral, Florida, aboard an Atlas V rocket on 18 June. The threat of thunderstorms had the launch in question right up until the very end, but conditions were declared 'green' with less than 30 minutes remaining.

[LRO](#) is now heading directly to the moon, and expected to reach it on Tuesday. [LCROSS](#) is in a looping orbit around Earth that will send it plunging into a crater near the moon's south pole on 9 October, to look for water ice. If you can't wait until then for your lunar south pole action, check out a gorgeous new composite map of the south pole craters available [here](#).

The [Twitter feed of Pete Worden](#), director of NASA's Ames Research Center, is always good for moon gossip -- including the Russian vodka on tap at the post-launch party.

Image: NASA



Posted by Alex Witze on June 19, 2009

Categories: [Space and astronomy](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBacks \(0\)](#)

TRACKBACK

TrackBack URL for this entry:

<http://blogs.nature.com/cgi-bin/mt/mt-tb.cgi/8535>