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LRO's Project Site



Learn more about the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter from the project Web site maintained by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

[Visit the site](#)

LCROSS Web Site



The Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS), managed by NASA's Ames Research Center in California, will launch along with LRO. LCROSS will search for water ice in a permanently shadowed crater near one of the moon's poles.

[Visit the site](#)

Destination: Moon



Learn all about NASA's journey back to the moon by reading this four-part series, authored by

Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

NASA's First Step Back to the Moon

LRO Mission Update

LRO On Track for Lunar Rendezvous

Fri, 19 Jun 2009 11:25:45 AM MST

Following a successful launch and separation on June 18, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter is on schedule to reach the moon on June 23 at 5:43 a.m. EDT.

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Mission News

3, 2, 1, Liftoff!

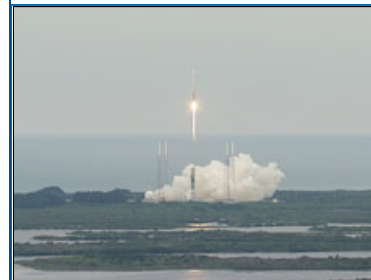


Image above: NASA's LRO and LCROSS spacecraft on top of the Atlas V rocket launch from Complex 41 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Photo credit: United Launch Alliance/Pat Corkery

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LRO Video

[Liftoff! LRO, LCROSS Head to the Moon](#)



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 Dr. Paul Lowman, of the Goddard Space Flight Center.

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NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Spacecraft are on their way to the moon atop the same Atlas V rocket, although they will use vastly different methods to study the lunar environment. LRO will go into orbit around the moon, turning its suite of instruments towards the moon for thorough studies. The spacecraft also will be looking for potential landing sites for astronauts.

LCROSS, on the other hand, will guide an empty upper stage on a collision course with a permanently shaded crater in an effort to kick up evidence of water at the moon's poles. LCROSS itself will also impact the lunar surface during its course of study.

Liftoff occurred at 5:32 p.m. EDT. Mission managers used the last launch opportunity due to storms surrounding the launch site.

Additional Resources

- [› LRO Fact Sheet](#)
- [› LRO/LCROSS Press Kit](#)
- [› LRO/LCROSS Launch Coverage Events](#)

- [› why the moon ?](#)
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- [› LCROSS Mission](#)
- [› Lunar Precursor Robotic Program \(LPRP\)](#)

Test Your Knowledge

LRO's mission is to:

- Locate landing sites
- Find resources
- Test new technology
- All of the above

Answer

News and Features

NASA Returning to the Moon with First Lunar Launch in a Decade

NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter launched at 5:32 p.m. EDT Thursday aboard an Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

Lunar Exploration Missions Roll to Pad for Thursday Launch

NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, and the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite, or LCROSS, rolled aboard their Atlas V rocket to the launch pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida Wednesday morning in preparation for launch on Thursday.

[› More News and Features](#)

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