

NASA moonshot to map possible colony sites

Posted Fri Jun 19, 2009 5:10pm AEST

American space agency NASA has launched two unmanned probes to the Moon as part of its plan to send humans back to the Moon and beyond.

- [Video: NASA moon probe launched \(ABC News\)](#)

The probes will map possible landing sites and search for water sources that could be used by a future lunar colony.

Vern Thorp is NASA's Missions Program manager.

"I think we are doing things on this mission that a launch vehicle has never tried to do before in space," he said.

"Another thing that makes this mission very interesting for us is it's actually a return to our roots."

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