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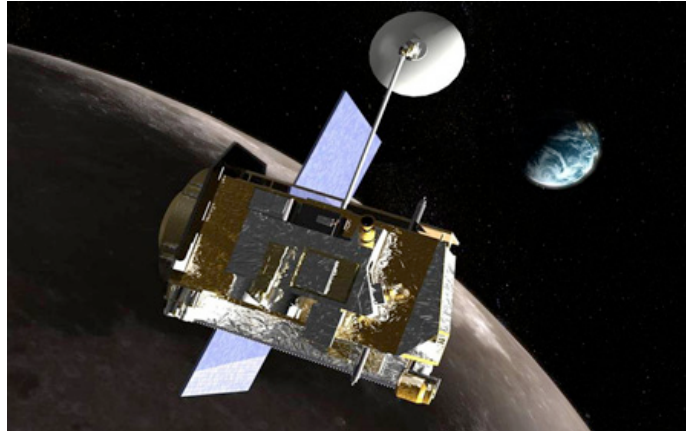
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Friday August 21, 2009

NASA Receives 461GB of Moon Data Each Day

Categories: [Space Tech](#)

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Hold onto your hard drive: NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) has been sending 461 gigabytes of images and other data back home every day, according to [Slashdot](#). Interestingly, it's using a 100 Mbps data pipe--specifically, a K-band transmitter called the Traveling Wave Tube Amplifier.

It's a 13-inch long tube that uses electrodes in a vacuum tube to amplify microwave signals, the report said. L-3 Communications Electron Technologies and NASA's Glenn Research Center built the device in tandem. 100 Mbps doesn't sound all that impressive on paper, since wired Ethernet has had that for years--until you release the data is traveling *almost 240,000 miles*. Suddenly FiOS doesn't seem all that fast.

(Want the latest LRO news and images? Head over to NASA's dedicated landing page for the [Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter](#).)

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