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APRIL 1, 2009

LRO Launch Delayed Again

From: "Tooley, Craig R. (GSFC-4510)"
Date: Tue, 31 Mar 2009 23:11:08 -0500
To: [DELETED]
Cc: [DELETED]
Conversation: LRO Launch Date - Clarification
Subject: RE: LRO Launch Date - Clarification



The official [NASA](#) Flight Planning Board position is the LRO/LCROSS launch date is [NET](#) 6/2/2009. We will plan for this and this is consistent with the launch vehicle schedule we integrate our schedule to. But there is still an open trade concerning LCROSS science that could push it to the second June window which opens June 17th. The LRO team should work to 6/2/2009.

My apologies for any confusion I have promulgated.

Craig

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-----Original Message-----

From: owner-lro_project_all_gsfc@listserv.gsfc.nasa.gov
On Behalf Of Tooley, Craig R. (GSFC-4510)
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:53 PM
To: [DELETED]
Subject: LRO Launch Date

It is now certain that LRO will not launch on May 21, 2009 and that our new first launch day will be either June 3, 2009 or June 4 2009. The slip is due to a delay in launching the WGS mission ahead of us. The uncertainty in June 3 vs. June 4 arises from the fact that on June 3 it is a single instantaneous opportunity and that may be unacceptable to KSC/ULA or possibly LPRP. From an LRO standpoint the first window set consists of June 3,4,5.

This [translates](#) into 2 extra weeks which we'll exploit in a variety of ways. Some of the time is required to revise the Flight Products for a new launch date. We'll also use this time to further prepare for commissioning, which was our upcoming focus as soon as we completed MR#5. Finally, we will also review the overall schedule of remaining work to look for ways to [optimize](#) it given a bit more time.

CRAIG TOOLEY-LRO Project Manager
<http://lro.gsfc.nasa.gov>

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NAŠA-GSFC-451

Posted by kcowing at April 1, 2009 11:23 AM

COMMENTS

Not too bad of a delay. Good to hear this launch is still coming up soon.

Hasn't polar water been proven to NOT exist to some degree of certainty already though?

Posted by: crix at April 1, 2009 1:48 PM

Nice of LRO to be accomodating to LCROSS science too (contractually they don't have to).

Water ice has NOT been disproven. Until you have ground truth you don't actually know. Some radar work has been done which produced some evidence that there isn't water ice, but it can only see to a very shallow depth (IIRC). LCROSS' Centaur impact will excavate up to 18 feet deep, and the instrument suite includes both visible and mass [spectrometers](#). When the regolith gets up into the sunlight and vaporizes we'll have a MUCH better idea what is really down there and then be able to correlate what we're seeing from orbit to what's down there.

More info: <http://lcross.arc.nasa.gov>

Posted by: Emory Stagmer at April 2, 2009 12:45 PM

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