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Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter**Auteur****Message****Dominique M.**

Sujet: Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Jeu 12 Fév 2009 - 19:54

NASA LUNAR SPACECRAFT SHIPS SOUTH IN PREPARATION FOR LAUNCH

GREENBELT, Md. -- NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, spacecraft was loaded on a truck Wednesday to begin its two-day journey to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Launch is targeted for April 24.

The spacecraft was built by engineers at Goddard, where it recently completed two months of tests in a thermal vacuum chamber. During its time in the chamber, the spacecraft was subjected to hot and cold temperatures it will experience as it orbits the moon.

The satellite's mission is one of the first steps in NASA's plan to return astronauts to the moon. LRO will spend at least one year in a low polar orbit on its primary exploration mission, with the possibility of three more years to collect additional detailed scientific information about the moon and its environment.

The orbiter will carry seven instruments to provide scientists with detailed maps of the lunar surface and enhance our understanding of the moon's topography, lighting conditions, mineralogical composition and natural resources. Information gleaned from LRO will be used to select safe landing sites, determine locations for future lunar outposts and help mitigate radiation dangers to astronauts. The polar regions of the moon are the main focus of the mission because continuous access to sunlight may be possible and water ice may exist in permanently shadowed areas of the poles.

"This is the culmination of four years of hard work by everyone on the LRO Project," said Cathy Peddie, LRO deputy project manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. "LRO now begins its launch site processing, where it will be prepped for integration with our sister mission LCROSS, and eventually encapsulated in the Atlas V for its journey to the moon."

LRO's instruments have considerable heritage from previous planetary science missions, enabling the spacecraft to transition to a research phase under the direction of NASA's Science Mission Directorate one year after launch.

Accompanying LRO on its journey to the moon will be the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite, or LCROSS, a mission that will impact the lunar surface in its search for water ice. The LCROSS mission is managed by NASA's Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, Calif.

Goddard manages the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter for NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate in Washington.

For more information about LRO, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/lro>

Dominique M.

Sujet: Re: Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Sam 14 Mar 2009 - 8:36

Mission: Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter/Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LRO/LCROSS)

Launch Vehicle: Atlas V

Launch Pad: Launch Complex 41, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

Launch Date: No Earlier Than May 20, 2009

Launch Time: 4:38 - 5:28 p.m. EDT

NASA now is targeting May 20 for launch instead of April 24 after another Atlas V government launch, also on Launch Complex 41, experienced technical problems and was delayed.

NASA's Lunar Crater Observation Sensing Satellite, or LCROSS arrived at the Astrotech facility in Titusville, Fla., near Kennedy Space Center, on Feb. 19. It is now undergoing checkout and prelaunch preparations. The spacecraft is managed by NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif.

NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, arrived at the Astrotech facility on Feb. 13. The spacecraft was uncrated and transferred to Astrotech the same day, where covers were removed and technicians performed a black-light inspection. The spacecraft's solar arrays were attached and deployed, and a spacecraft activation test was conducted on Feb. 15. The Deep Space Network end-to-end test was completed last week. LRO and LCROSS will be integrated in mid-April. LRO is managed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

The Centaur stage of the Atlas V arrived at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on Feb. 20. It was offloaded and transported to the Atlas Spaceflight Operations Center facility on Feb. 21. The launch vehicle fairing halves arrived at Astrotech on Feb 26. The Atlas payload fairings were moved from Astrotech's north encapsulation bay into the

facility's spin bay on March 3.

Dominique M.

Sujet: Re: Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Mar 24 Mar 2009 - 17:19

Mission: Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter/Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LRO/LCROSS)

Launch Vehicle: Atlas V

Launch Pad: Launch Complex 41, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

Launch Date: May 21, 2009

Launch Time: 5:32 - 6:32 p.m. EDT

NASA now is targeting May 21 for the launch of LRO/LCROSS instead of May 20 to optimize mission science.

Last week, the LRO spacecraft team successfully completed tests of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera and performed a Mini-Radio Frequency Comprehensive Performance Test. A black light cleanliness inspection also was done.

Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter



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