

# Human Exploration & Operations Overview

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



**William H. Gerstenmaier**  
NAC Full Meeting  
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# Space Policy Directive – 1

## *Reinvigorating America's Human Space Exploration Program*



“Lead an innovative and sustainable program of exploration with commercial and international partners to enable human expansion across the solar system and to bring back to Earth new knowledge and opportunities.

Beginning with missions beyond low-Earth orbit, the United States will lead the return of humans to the Moon for long-term exploration and utilization, followed by human missions to Mars and other destinations.”



# Space Policy Directive – 2

## *Streamlining Regulations on the Commercial Use of Space*

“It is the policy of the executive branch to be prudent and responsible when spending taxpayer funds, and to recognize how government actions, including Federal regulations, affect private resources.

It is therefore important that regulations adopted and enforced by the executive branch promote economic growth; minimize uncertainty for taxpayers, investors, and private industry; protect national security, public-safety, and foreign policy interests; and encourage American leadership in space commerce.”

# Space Policy Directive – 3

## *National Space Traffic Management*



“For decades, the United States has effectively reaped the benefits of operating in space to enhance our national security, civil, and commercial sectors. Our society now depends on space technologies and space-based capabilities for communications, navigation, weather forecasting, and much more.

Given the significance of space activities, the United States considers the continued unfettered access to and freedom to operate in space of vital interest to advance the security, economic prosperity, and scientific knowledge of the Nation.”

# EXPLORE

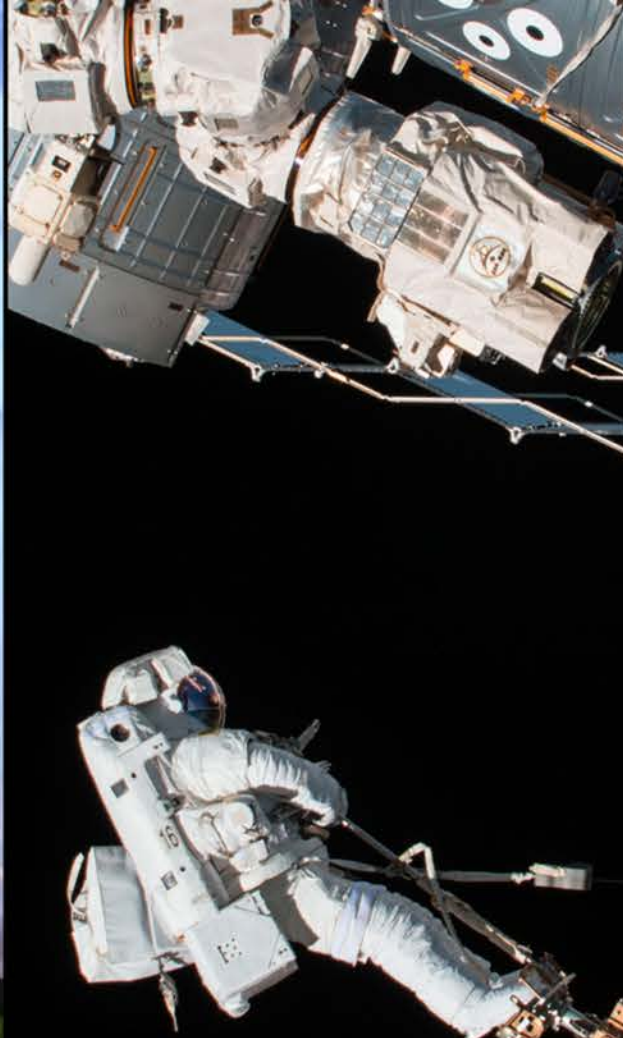
ADVANCE  
EXPLORATION  
& SCIENCE



DEVELOP  
SPACE

# DEVELOP

LEAD THE EXPLORATION  
OF SPACE WITH  
INTERNATIONAL  
& PRIVATE SECTOR  
PARTNERS



# STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION

**Fiscal Realism | Commercial Partnerships | Scientific Exploration**  
**Technology Pull and Push | Gradual Buildup of Capability**  
**Architecture Openness and Resilience**  
**Global Collaboration and Leadership | Continuity of Human Spaceflight**

# International Interoperability Standards

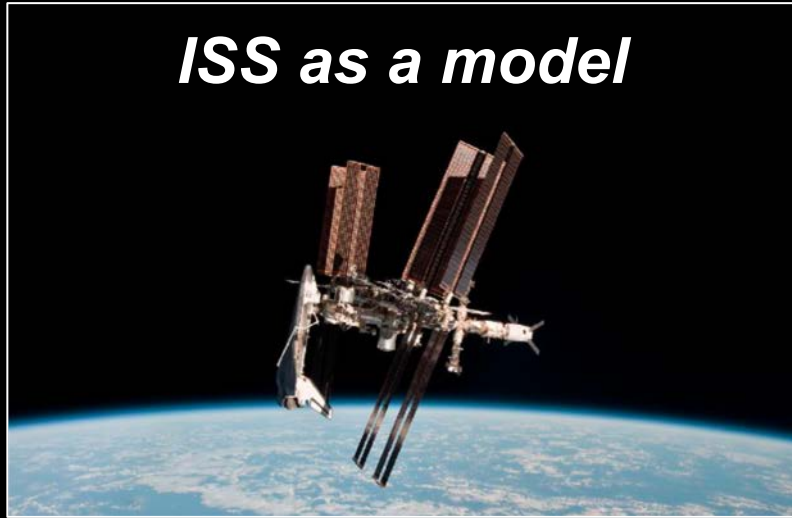


**Draft Deep Space Interoperability System Standards  
Posted for feedback on March 1, 2018**

- Avionics
- Communications
- Environmental Control and Life Support Systems
- Power
- Rendezvous
- Robotics
- Thermal

# NASA's Open Architecture Develops Space

## COMMERCIAL CARGO & CREW



Cygnus (Northrup Grumman)



Dragon (SpaceX)



Dream Chaser (SNC)



Dragon Crew (SpaceX)



Starliner (Boeing)

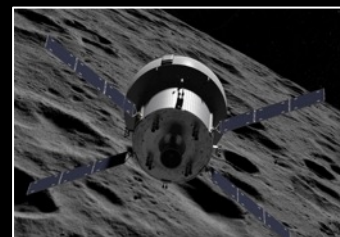
## INTERNATIONAL



Soyuz & Progress  
(Roscosmos)



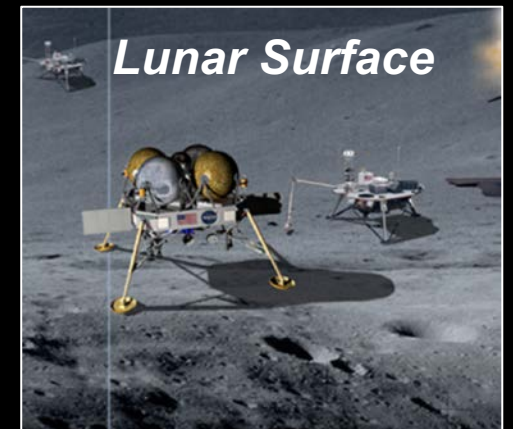
H-II Transfer  
Vehicle (JAXA)



Orion/European  
Service Module (ESA)

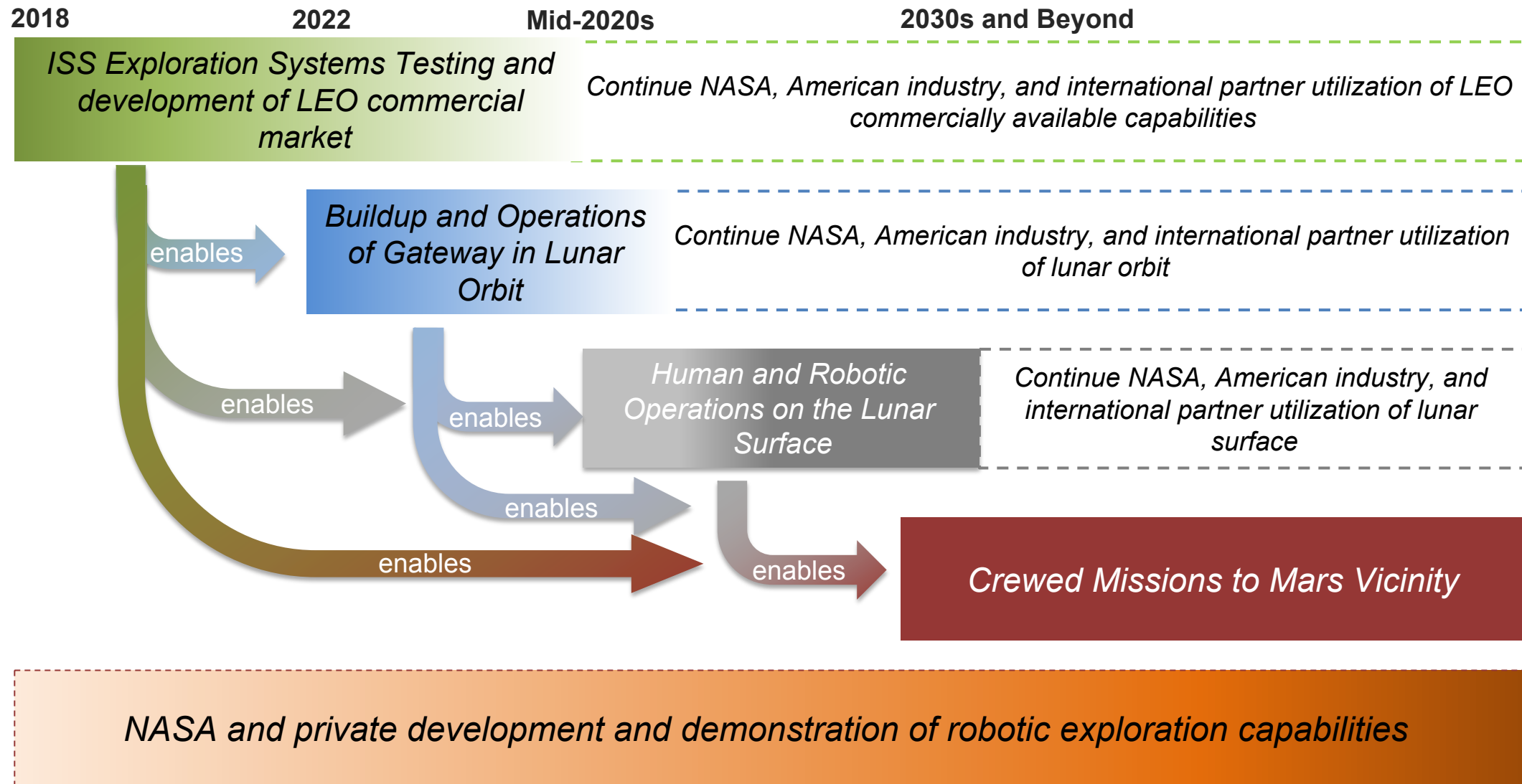


Multiple providers expected in lunar orbit and on the surface





# Sustaining Leadership Through The Buildup of Mutually-enabling Exploration Capabilities



# Expanding Human Presence In Partnership

*Now*

LEO commercial market

Technology and crew health  
advancements via ISS

Lunar discovery and  
exploration

*Early 2020s*

SLS/Orion

Buildup and Initial  
operations of gateway

Small robotic landers via CLPS

Medium lunar landers

Mars 2020 Rover

*Late 2020s*

SLS/Orion cislunar missions

Gateway in lunar orbit

Larger lunar landers progressing  
toward human-class landers

Mars sample return

*Late 2030s*

First human mission  
to Mars

*Early-2030s*

Human and robotic lunar  
surface operations

Prep for Mars mission

# Designing for Deep Space

A kilogram of mass delivered here

Adds this much initial architecture mass in LEO

LEO to Lunar Orbit

4.3 KG

LEO to Lunar Surface

7.5 KG

LEO to Lunar Orbit to Earth Surface

9.0 KG

Lunar Surface to Earth Surface

12.0 KG

LEO to Lunar Surface to Lunar Orbit

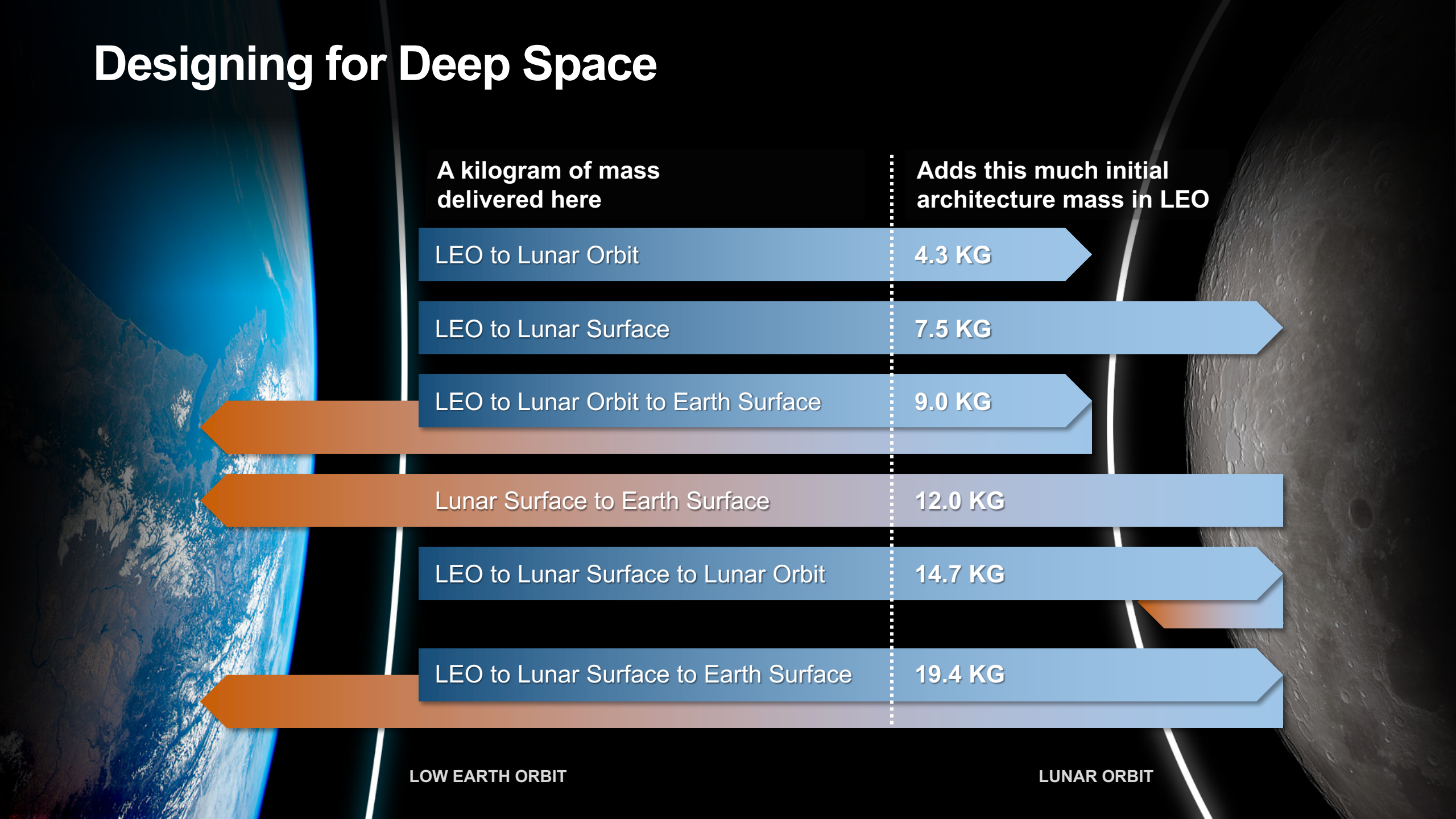
14.7 KG

LEO to Lunar Surface to Earth Surface

19.4 KG

LOW EARTH ORBIT

LUNAR ORBIT



# Human Spaceflight Risks

## Physiological Changes

Cardiovascular Deconditioning  
Decreased Immune Function  
Muscle Atrophy  
Balance Disorders  
Fluid Shifts  
Visual Alterations  
Bone Loss

## Space Radiation

Acute in-flight Effects  
Long-term cancer risk  
Cardiovascular



## Distance from Earth

Need for "autonomous" medical care –cannot return home for treatment

## Hostile Environment

Vehicle Design  
Environmental - Air levels  
Toxic exposure - Water, food

## Isolation and Confinement

Behavior aspect of isolation  
Sleep disorders

# Leveraging Space Station: Habitation Systems (1/2)

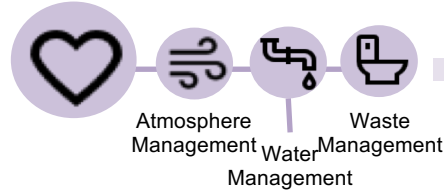
## Habitation Systems Elements

**TODAY**  
Space Station

**FUTURE**  
Deep Space

### LIFE SUPPORT

Excursions from Earth are possible with artificially produced breathing air, drinking water and other conditions for survival.

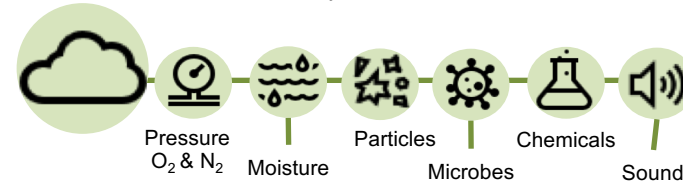


- ~50% O<sub>2</sub> Recovery from CO<sub>2</sub>
- 90% H<sub>2</sub>O Recovery
- < 6 mo mean time before failure (for some components)

- 75%+ O<sub>2</sub> Recovery from CO<sub>2</sub>
- 98%+ H<sub>2</sub>O Recovery
- >30 mo mean time before failure

### ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

NASA living spaces are designed with controls and integrity that ensure the comfort and safety of inhabitants.



- Limited, crew-intensive on-board capability
- Reliance on sample return to Earth for analysis

- On-board analysis capability with no sample return
- Identify and quantify species and organisms in air & water

### CREW HEALTH

Astronauts are provided tools to perform successfully while preserving their well-being and long-term health.

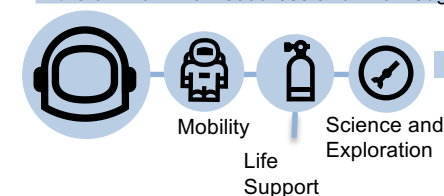


- Bulky fitness equipment
- Limited medical capability
- Frequent food system resupply

- Smaller, efficient equipment
- Onboard medical capability
- Long-duration food system

### EVA: EXTRA-VEHICULAR ACTIVITY

Long-term exploration depends on the ability to physically investigate the unknown for resources and knowledge.



- Upper body high mobility for limited sizing range
- Low interval between maintenance, contamination sensitive, and consumables limit EVA time
- Construction and repair focused tools; excessive inventory of unique tools

- Full body mobility for expanded sizing range
- Increased time between maintenance cycles, contamination resistant system, 25% increase in EVA time
- Geological sampling and surveying equipment; common generic tool kit

# Leveraging Space Station: Habitation Systems (2/2)

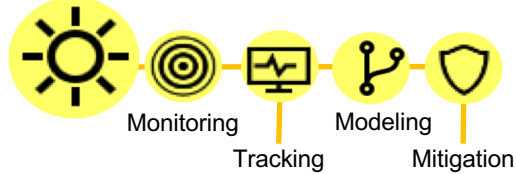
## Habitation Systems Elements

**TODAY**  
Space Station

**FUTURE**  
Deep Space

### RADIATION PROTECTION

During each journey, radiation from the sun and other sources poses a significant threat to humans and spacecraft.

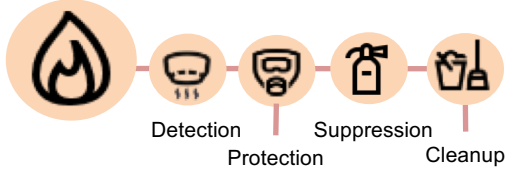


- Node 2 crew quarters (CQ) with polyethylene reduce impacts of proton irradiation.
- Large multi-layer detectors & small pixel detectors – real-time dosimetry, environment monitoring, tracking, model validation & verification
- Bulky gas-based detectors – real-time dosimetry
- Small solid-state crystal detectors – passive dosimetry (analyzed post-mission)

- Solar particle event storm shelter, optimized position of on-board materials and CQ
- Small distributed pixel detector systems – real-time dosimetry, environment monitoring, and tracking
- Small actively read-out detectors for crew – real-time dosimetry

### FIRE SAFETY

Throughout every mission, NASA is committed to minimizing critical risks to human safety.



- Large CO<sub>2</sub> Suppressant Tanks
- 2-cartridge mask
- Obsolete combustion prod. sensor
- Only depress/repress clean-up

- Water Mist portable fire extinguisher
- Single Cartridge Mask
- Exploration combustion product monitor
- Smoke eater

### LOGISTICS

Sustainable living outside of Earth requires explorers to reduce, recycle, reuse, and repurpose materials.

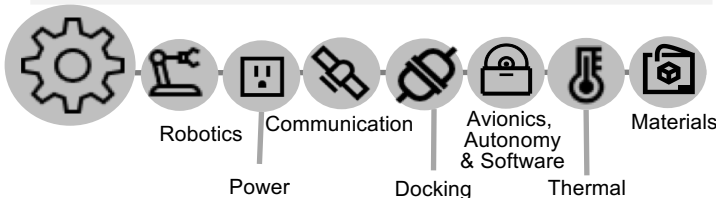


- Manual scans, displaced items
- Disposable cotton clothing
- Packaging disposed
- Bag and discard

- Automatic, autonomous RFID
- Long-wear clothing/laundry
- Bags/foam repurposed w/3D printer
- Resource recovery, then disposal

### CROSS-CUTTING

Powerful, efficient, and safe launch systems will protect and deliver crews and materials across new horizons.



- Minimal on-board autonomy
- Near-continuous ground-crew communications
- Some common interfaces, modules controlled separately

- Ops independent of Earth & crew
- Up to 40-minute comm delay
- Widespread common interfaces, modules/systems integrated
- Manufacture replacement parts in space

# What It Takes To Come Home Safely

## LOW EARTH RETURN

**3 HOURS**

**1,650°C**

**28,160 KPH**

**400 KM**

## LUNAR RETURN

**3 DAYS**

**2,870°C**

**39,750 KPH**

**386,240 KM**

## MARS RETURN

**9 MONTHS**

**3,425°C**

**43,130 KPH**

**62,764,420 KM**



# Commercial Crew – Boeing Starliner





# Commercial Crew – SpaceX Dragon



# EXPLORE

LUNAR SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION  
CAPABILITY



LUNAR CATALYST

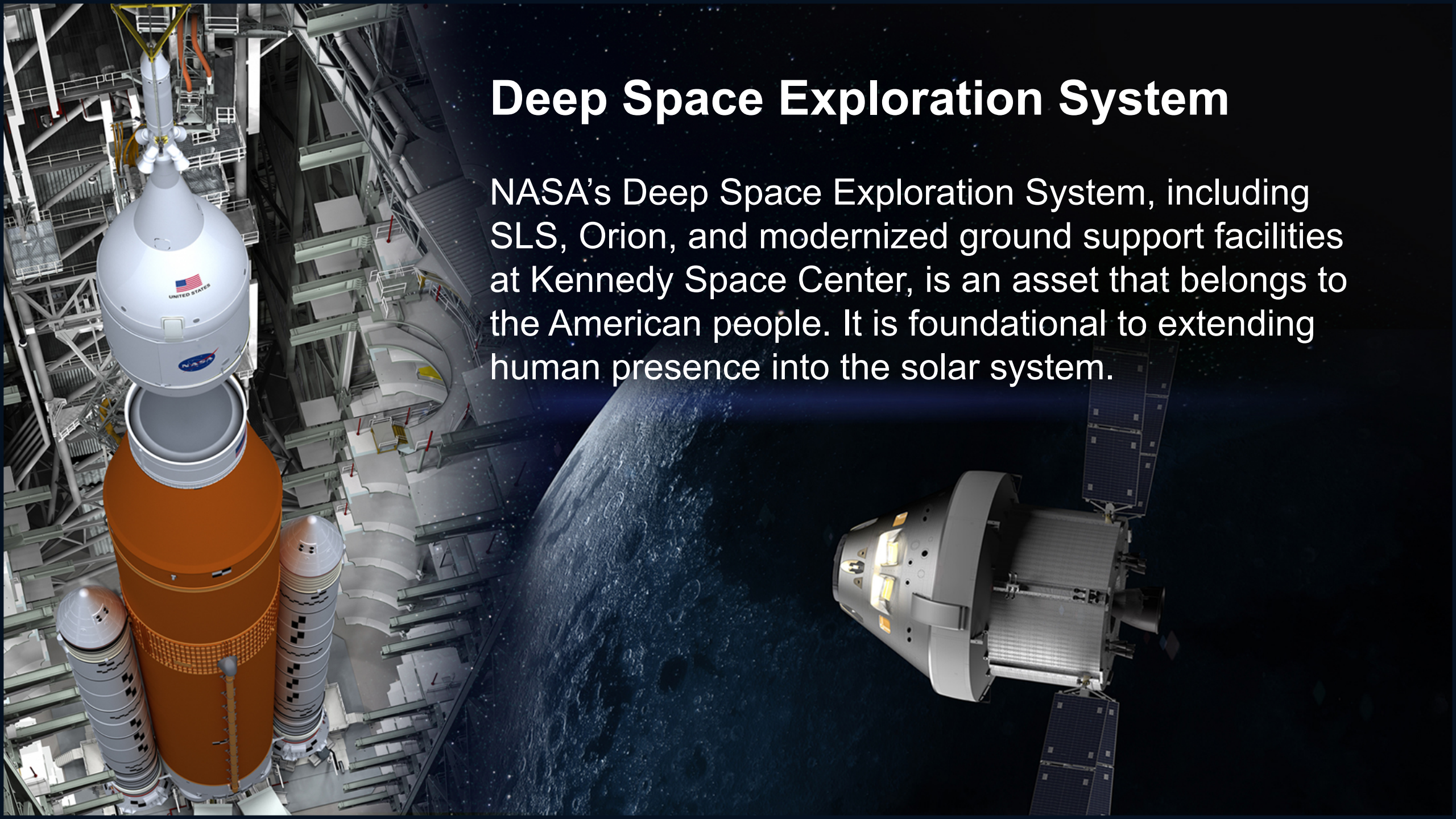
TIPPING POINT

# DEVELOP

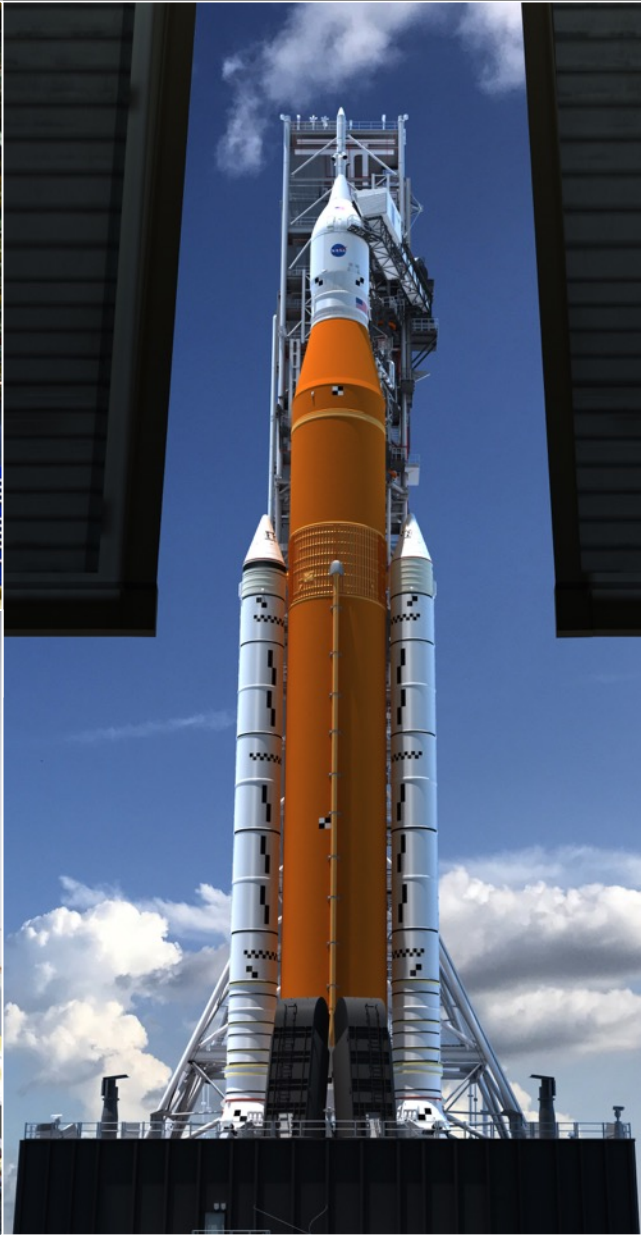
COMMERCIAL LUNAR  
PAYLOAD SERVICES  
(CLPS)

# Deep Space Exploration System

NASA's Deep Space Exploration System, including SLS, Orion, and modernized ground support facilities at Kennedy Space Center, is an asset that belongs to the American people. It is foundational to extending human presence into the solar system.



# Deep Space Exploration System



# GATEWAY

A spaceport for human and robotic exploration to the Moon and beyond



## HUMAN ACCESS TO & FROM LUNAR SURFACE

Astronaut support and teleoperations of surface assets.



## U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL CARGO RESUPPLY

Expanding the space economy with supplies delivered aboard partner ships that also provide interim spacecraft volume for additional utilization.



## SAMPLE RETURN

Pristine Moon or Mars samples robotically delivered to the Gateway for safe processing and return to Earth.



## INTERNATIONAL CREW

International crew expeditions for up to 30 days as early as 2024. Longer expeditions as new elements are delivered to the Gateway.

## SCIENCE AND TECH DEMOS

Support payloads inside, affixed outside, free-flying nearby, or on the lunar surface. Experiments and investigations continue operating autonomously when crew is not present.

## COMMUNICATIONS RELAY

Data transfer for surface and orbital robotic missions and high-rate communications to and from Earth.

## SIX DAYS TO ORBIT THE MOON

The orbit keeps the crew in constant communication with Earth and out of the Moon's shadow.

## A HUB FOR FARTHER DESTINATIONS

From this orbit, Vehicles can embark to multiple destinations: The Moon, Mars and beyond.

## GATEWAY SPECS



4 Crew Members



30-90 Day Crew Missions



125 m<sup>3</sup> Pressurized Volume



Up to 75mt with Orion docked

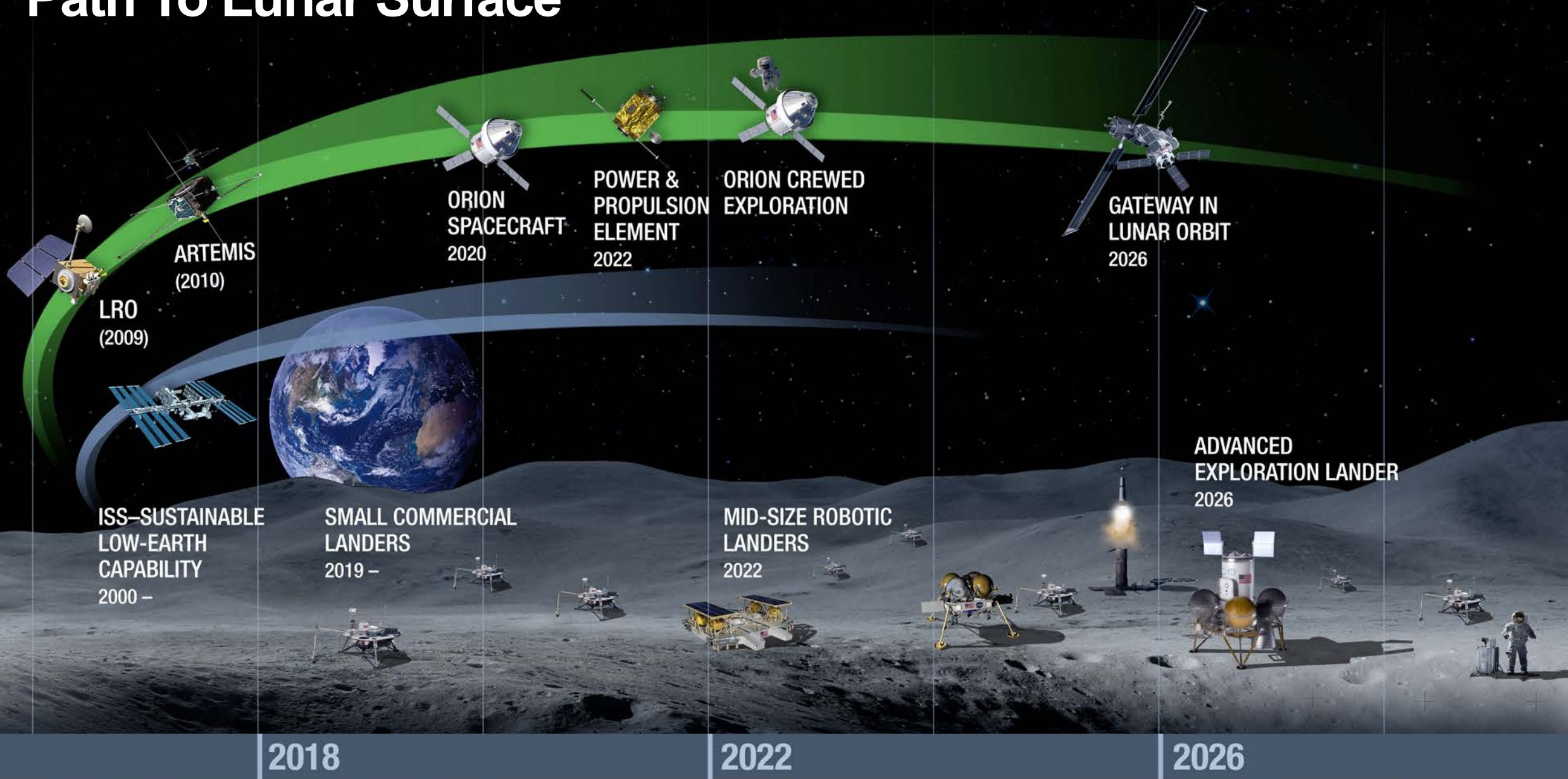
## ACCESS



384,000 km from Earth

Accessible via NASA's SLS as well as international and commercial ships.

# Path To Lunar Surface





Questions?

