



Lunar CRater Observation and Sensing Satellite

The LCROSS Mission and the Importance for the Discovery of Water on the Moon

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When people think about the LCROSS (Lunar CRater Observation and Sensing Satellite) Mission, they often wonder what the importance is of finding water on the Moon. The potential discovery of water is certainly the biggest incentive of the mission. The potential discovery of water is vital for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the future plan to possibly establish a permanent American base on Earth's moon. The Lewis Center for Educational Research's GAVRT Program has a unique opportunity to play an important role in the tracking of a mission which could significantly alter the amount of knowledge humans have about the Moon.

The LCROSS launch, which is currently scheduled for late May in Cape Canaveral, Florida, could potentially be the initial stepping stone for a new era in American space exploration. However, the LCROSS Mission will serve as a sequel to the Clementine and Lunar Prospector missions. These two important missions set the stage for the LCROSS Mission to search for water on the Moon. The information that will be obtained from the impact of the LCROSS Centaur rocket with the Moon will also be useful for future missions to other planets. The knowledge NASA gains through the LCROSS Mission about the Moon may be needed for future missions to Mars or other planets in our Solar System. The fact that the discovery of water is very important on Mars and other planets is an important similarity to the Moon.

It is unknown whether or not the Shepherd Spacecraft and the Centaur Rocket will be able to find water in a shadowed crater near the Moon's pole. At the launch, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) will be transported with the two spacecraft to the Moon. It is imperative for the LCROSS Mission's Centaur Rocket and the Shepherd Spacecraft to find water on the Moon for America to have realistic hopes of establishing a permanent Moon base.

Works Cited:

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

lcross.arc.nasa.gov/mission.htm



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