

Vision

# Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

## Project Overview & Status



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<http://lunar.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Implementing the Vision

# NASA's Vision For Space Exploration

## LRO's Role

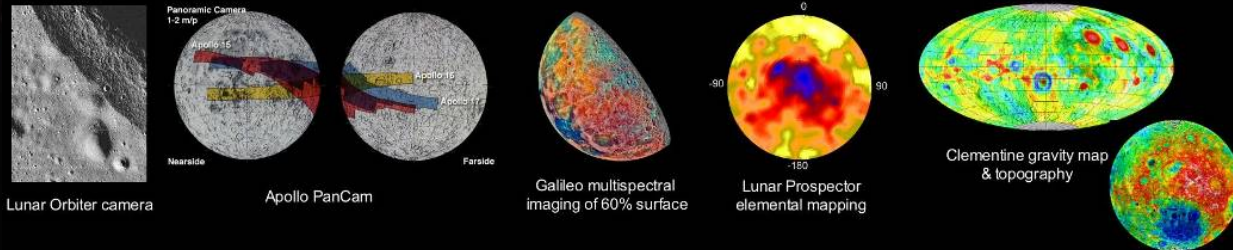
### Robotic Lunar Exploration Program



Jan. 14 2004 – The President announced a new vision for space exploration that included among its goals “to return to the moon by 2020, as the launching point for missions beyond. Beginning no later than 2008, we will send a series of robotic missions to the lunar surface to research and prepare for future human exploration.”

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# Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Mission Objectives



**Objective:** The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) mission objective is to conduct investigations that will be specifically targeted to prepare for and support future human exploration of the Moon.



Locate Potential Resources  
Hydrogen/water at the lunar poles  
Continuous solar energy  
Mineralogy

Safe Landing Sites  
High resolution imagery  
Global geodetic grid  
Topography  
Rock abundances

Space Environment  
Energetic particles  
Neutrons

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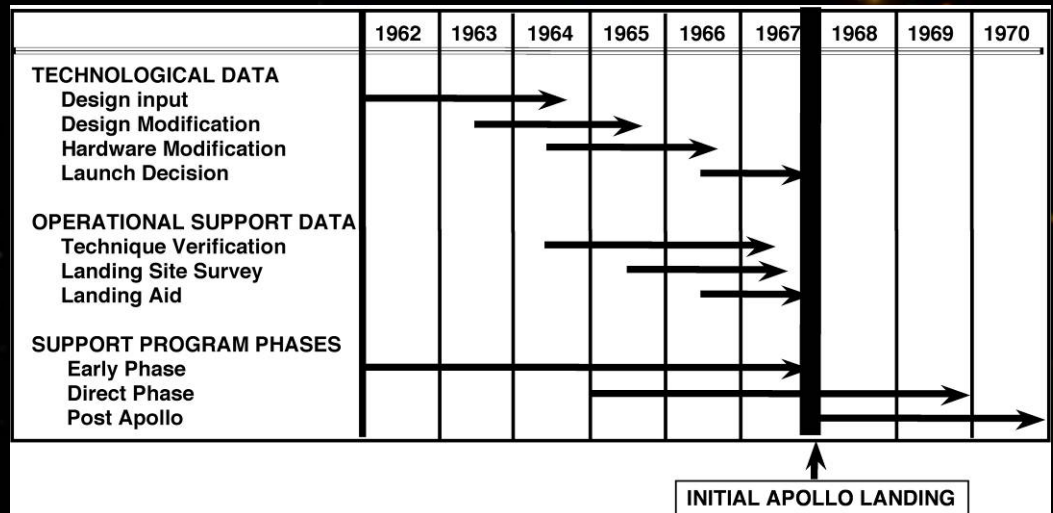
# LRO Follows in the Footsteps of the Apollo Robotic Precursors



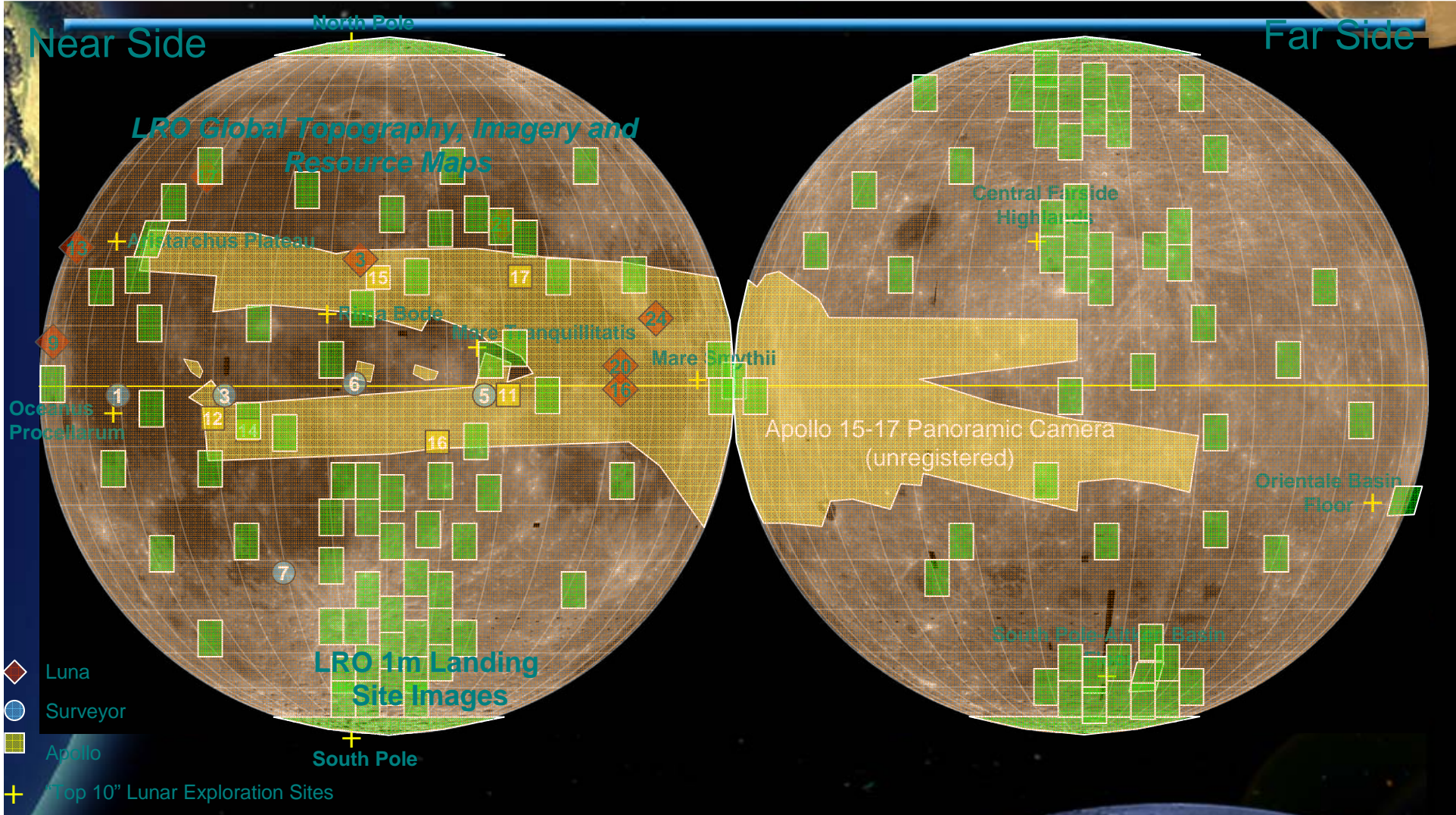
- Apollo had three (Ranger, Lunar Orbiter and Surveyor) robotic exploration programs with 21 precursor missions from 1961-68
  1. Lunar Orbiters provided medium & high resolution imagery (1-2m resolution) which was acquired to support selection of Apollo and Surveyor landing sites.
  2. Surveyor Landers made environmental measurements including surface physical characteristics.
  3. Ranger hard landers took the first close-up photos of the lunar surface
- Exploration needs the above information to go to new sites *and* resource data to enable sustainable exploration.



Lunar Orbiter ETU in Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, Washington DC



# LRO Enables Global Lunar Surface Access



# LRO Mission Overview



- **Launch in late 2008 on a EELV into a direct insertion trajectory to the moon. Co-manifested with LCROSS spacecraft.**
- **On-board propulsion system used to capture at the moon, insert into and maintain 50 km mean altitude circular polar reconnaissance orbit.**
- **1 year mission with extended mission options.**
- **Orbiter is a 3-axis stabilized, nadir pointed spacecraft designed to operate continuously during the primary mission.**
- **Investigation data products delivered to Planetary Data Systems (PDS) within 6 months of primary mission completion.**



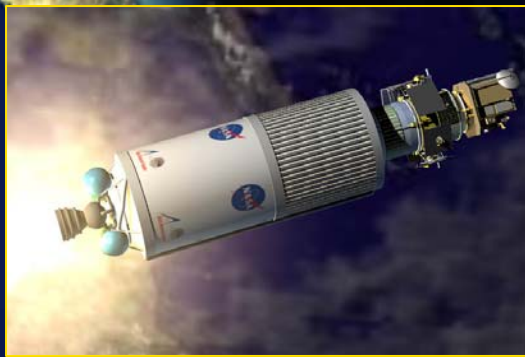
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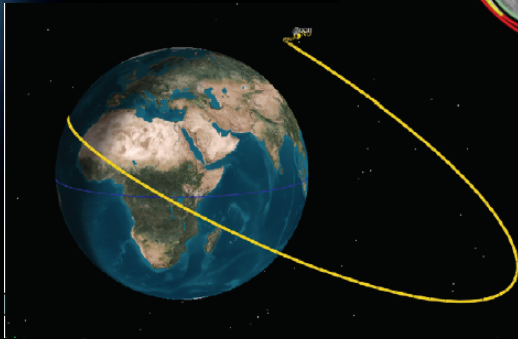
# LRO Mission Overview



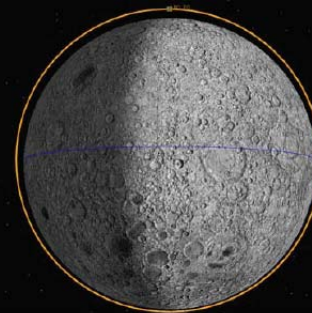
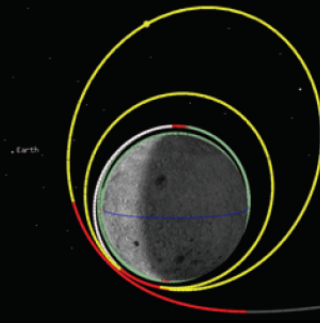
Launch: October 28, 2008



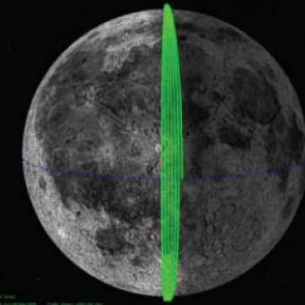
Minimum Energy  
Lunar Transfer ~ 4 Days



Lunar Orbit Insertion  
Sequence, 4-6 Days



Commissioning Phase,  
30 x 216 km Altitude  
Quasi-Frozen Orbit,  
Up to 60 Days



Polar Mapping Phase,  
50 km Altitude Circular Orbit,  
At least 1 Year







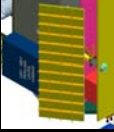


Nominal End of Mission: February 2010

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# LRO Instrument Summary

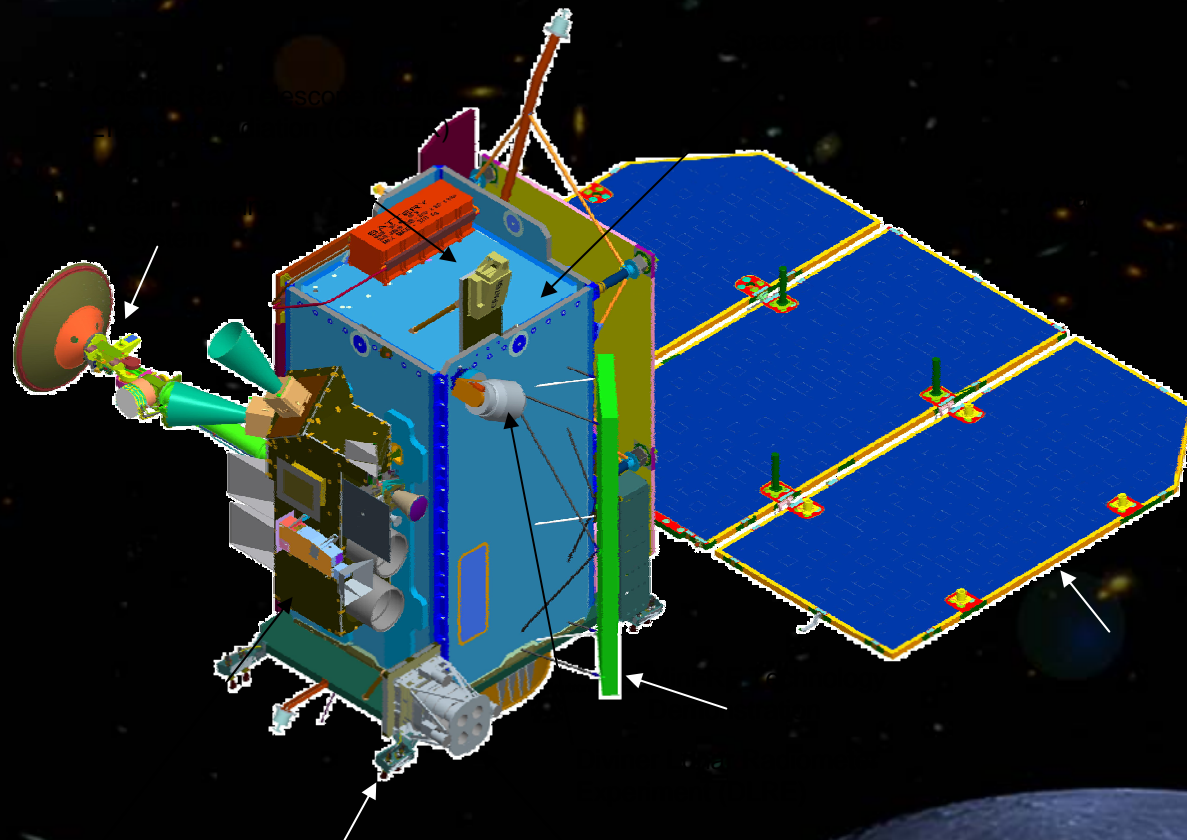


INSTRUMENT	SPONSORSHIP	MEASUREMENT	LVL 1 RQMTS TRACEABILITY
<p>CRaTER Cosmic Ray Telescope for the Effects of Radiation</p> 	<p>PI: Harlan Spence, BU IM: Rick Foster, MIT ISE: Bob Goeke, MIT</p>	<p>Tissue equivalent response to radiation LET energetic particle spectra 200 keV – 1 GeV/nuc</p>	<p>M10 - Radiation Environment M20 - Radiation on Human-equivalent tissue</p>
<p>DLRE Diviner Lunar Radiometer Experiment</p> 	<p>PI: David Paige, UCLA IM: Wayne Hartford, JPL ISE: Marc Foote, JPL</p>	<p>Better than 500m scale maps of temperature, rock abundances, mineralogy</p>	<p>M50 - Surface Temperatures M80 - Surface Features and Hazards M90 - Polar Illumination M100 - Regolith Resources</p>
<p>LAMP Lyman-Alpha Mapping Project</p> 	<p>PI: Alan Stern, SwRI IM: Ron Black, SwRI ISE: Dave Slater, SwRI</p>	<p>UV Albedo maps of the permanently shadowed areas Maps of frosts in permanently shadowed areas, 3km resolution</p>	<p>M60 - Images of PSRs M70 - Subsurface Ice</p>
<p>LEND Lunar Exploration Neutron Detector</p> 	<p>PI: Igor Mitrofanov, IKI Deputy PI: Roald Sagdeev, UMD IM: Anton Sanin, IKI ISE: Maxim Litvak, IKI</p>	<p>Maps of hydrogen in upper 2m of Moon at 10km scales Global distribution of neutrons around the Moon</p>	<p>M10 - Radiation Environment M70 - Subsurface Ice M110 - Hydrogen Mapping</p>
<p>LOLA Lunar Orbiter Laser Altimeter</p> 	<p>PI: David Smith, GSFC Co-PI: Maria Zuber, MIT IM: Glenn Jackson, GSFC ISE: John Cavanaugh, GSFC</p>	<p>~50m scale polar topography at &lt;10cm vertical, and roughness and slope data</p>	<p>M30 - Topography Grid M40 - Topography Resolution M60 - Images of PSRs M80 - Surface Features and Hazards M90 - Polar Illumination</p>
<p>LROC Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera</p> 	<p>PI: Mark Robinson, ASU IM: Scott Brylow, MSSS ISE: Mike Caplinger, MSSS</p>	<p>1000s<sup>2</sup> of 50cm/pixel images (125km), and entire Moon at 100m visible, 400m UV</p>	<p>M40 - Topography Resolution M80 - Surface Features and Hazards M90 - Polar Illumination M100 - Regolith Sources</p>
<p>Mini-RF Technology Demonstration</p> 	<p>POC: Keith Raney, JHU/APL PM: Bill Marinelli, NAWC DPM: Dean Huebert, NAWC</p>	<p>X&amp;S-band Radar imaging and radiometry</p>	<p>P160 - Demonstrate new lightweight SAR Technologies</p>

# LRO Spacecraft



LRO Orbiter Characteristics		
Mass (CBE)	1823 kg	Dry: 924 kg, Fuel: 898 kg (1263 m/sec)
Orbit Average Bus Power	681 W	
Data Volume, Max Downlink rate	459 Gb/day, 100Mb/sec	
Pointing Accuracy, Knowledge	60, 30 arc-sec	



Instrument Module  
(LOLA, LROC, LAMP)

ACS Thruster Module  
(1 of 4)

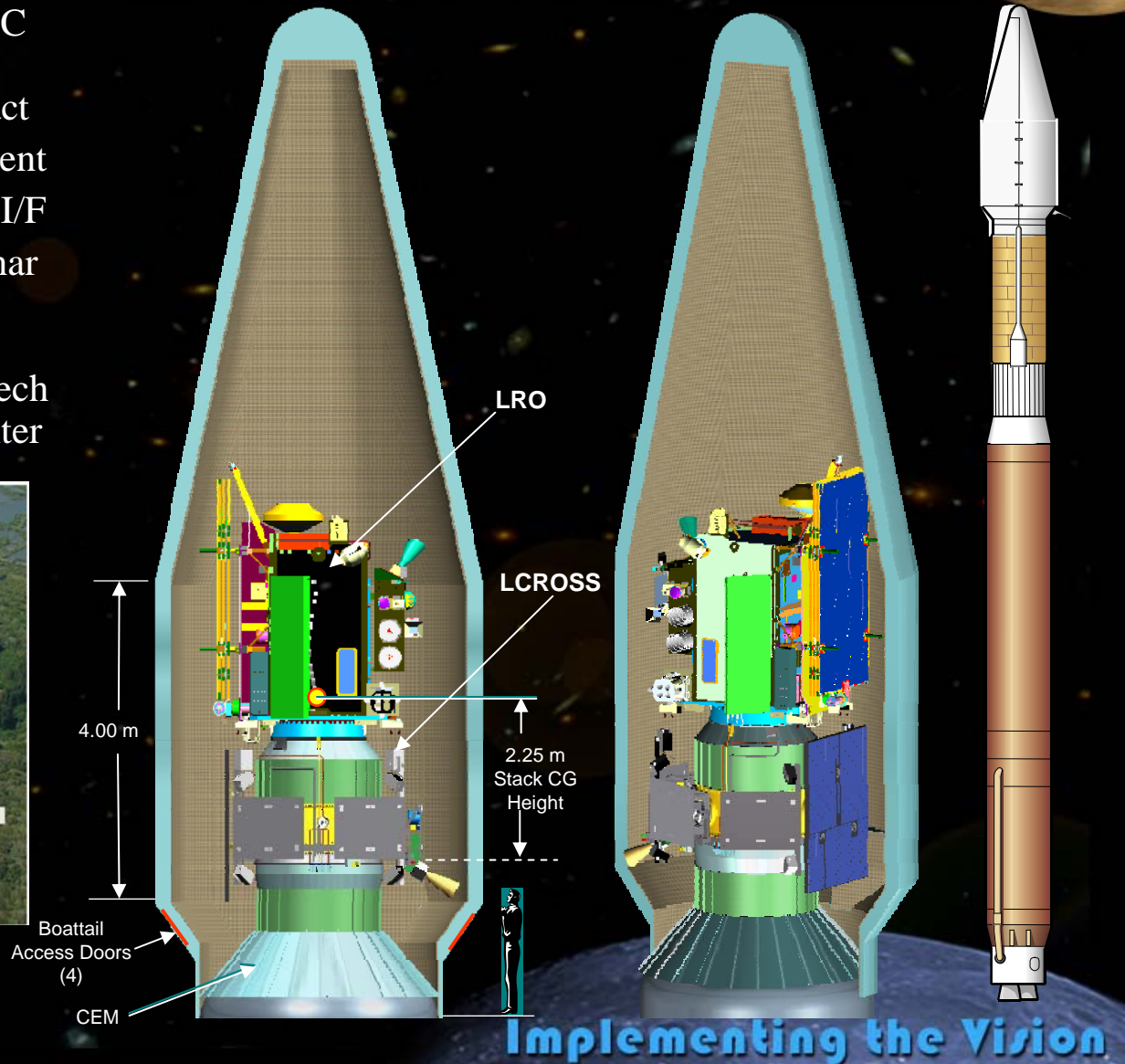
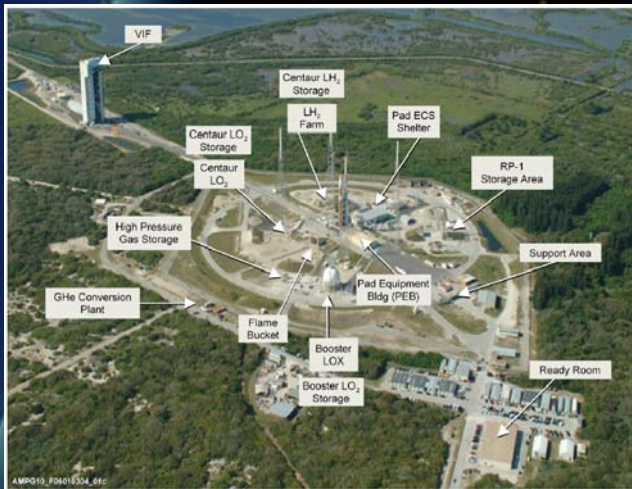
LEND Neutron  
Instrument

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# LRO-LCROSS Launch Segment



- Launch Services Provided by KSC
- Atlas V 401 through NLS Contract
- 2000 kg; Sun Exclusion thru Ascent
- 4m fairing; H/K data thru EELV I/F
- Co-manifested with LCROSS lunar mission
- Launch Site Processing at Astrotech including Fueling & Control Center

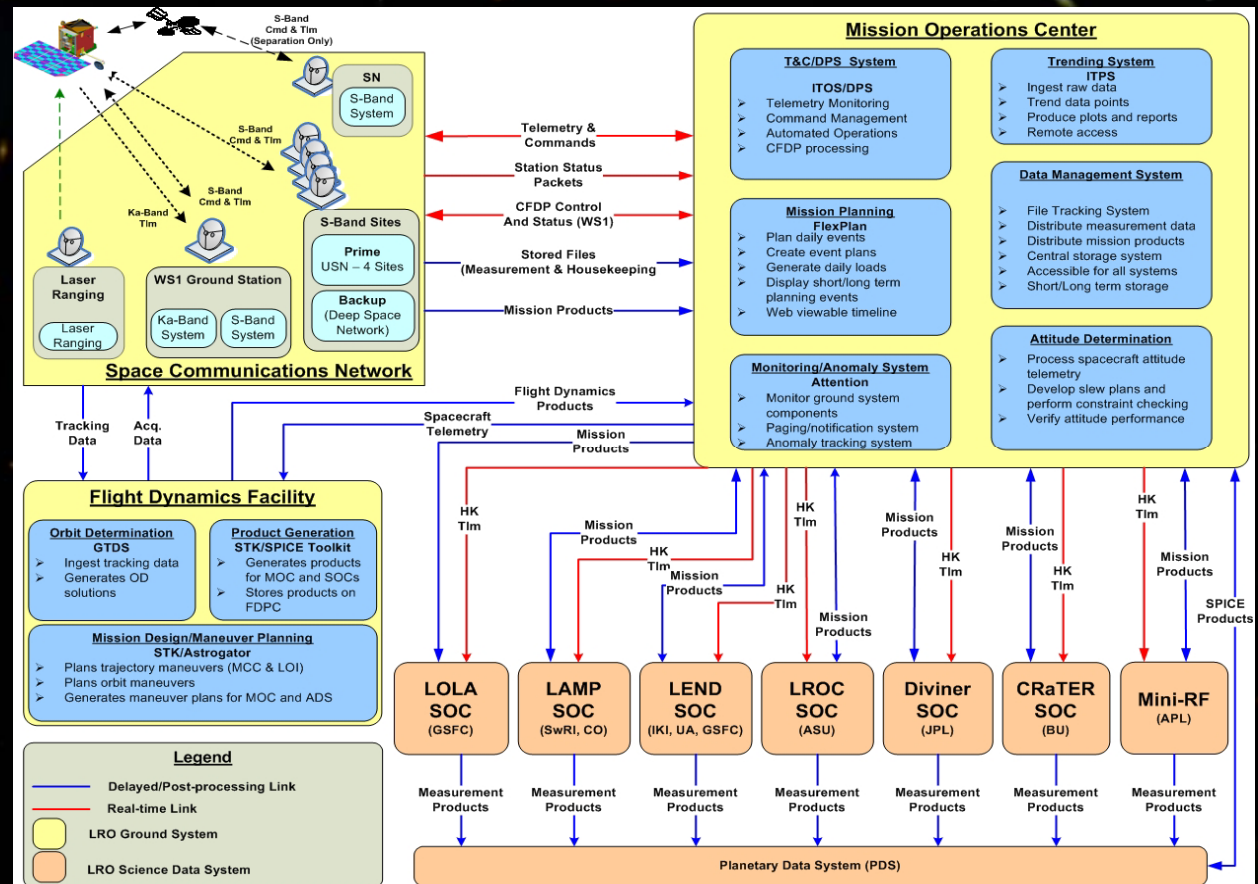


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# LRO Ground Segment Overview



- Mission Operations Center & Flight Dynamics Facility at GSFC
- Primary Ground Station at White Sands (Ka & S-Band)
- Global S-Band TT&C provided by NASA GN & SN.
- Science Operations Centers (SOC) at PI institutions
- S-band tracking augmented by laser ranging system to improve accuracy.



# LRO Mission – Current Status

- The LRO Mission was confirmed in May 2006 and successfully completed its mission CDR in November 2006
- Instruments completed CDRs during Spring and Summer 2006 and are proceeding with fabrication and testing.
- All spacecraft bus avionics are in ETU testing and proceeding toward flight fabrication
- All major procurements (ACS sensors, battery, gimbal actuators, RF systems) are awarded and on schedule for required delivery dates.
- Mission Operations Center being outfitted at GSFC
- White Sands 1 (WS1) Ka-S Band primary ground station under construction
- Project Reserves (Budget, Schedule, Mass, Power) are stable and at acceptable levels.

