



PROSPECT: ESA's Package for Resource Observation and In-Situ Prospecting for Exploration, Commercial Exploitation and Transportation

E. Sefton-Nash, J. Carpenter and the PROSPECT Team

European Space Agency

O/LROC/ASU

Lunar permanently shadowed regions

Map of polar water ice stability, (South Pole) within 1m (Paige et al. 2010).

Volatile stability in permanently shadowed lunar polar regolith



European Space Agency

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Volatiles buried in permanently shadowed polar regolith

• Volatiles in LCROSS plume ejected from Cabeus Crater impact (9th Oct. 2009)

Compound	Molecules cm ⁻²	% Relative to H ₂ O(g)*
H ₂ O	5.1(1.4)E19	100.00%
H ₂ S	8.5(0.9)E18	16.75%
NH ₃	3.1(1.5)E18	6.03%
S0 ₂	1.6(0.4)E18	3.19%
C_2H_4	1.6(1.7)E18	3.12%
C0 ₂	1.1(1.0)E18	2.17%
CH₃OH	7.8(42)E17	1.55%
CH ₄	3.3(3.0)E17	0.65%
ОН	1.7(0.4)E16	0.03%

Colaprete et al. (2010), Science

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Epithermal neutron suppression by buried H



Mitrofanov et al. (2012), JGRP

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Evidence for surface water frost in lunar south pole cold traps









2. Acquisition

3. Extraction

4. Transfer

5. Handling

6. Processing 7. Analysis

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PROSPECT on Luna 27 (launch 2022)

PROSPECT = ProSEED drill

Luna 27



ProSPA: 3 science questions and analysis modes



Sample from drill

1200

1000

800

600

200

-200

ature (°C)

Oven Tempe 400 ISRU demonstration (Illmenite reduction

with H₂ at 900 °C)

(Ramp 6 °C/min)

180

240

Time (minutes)

300

120







L: Rosetta Philae Ptolemy ion trap mass spectrometer 10 X 10 X 10 cm; for ProSPA: 2-200 amu; ~500 gram

R. Thermal release of volatiles from Apollo 14 soil. Gibson E.K., Jr. et al. (1972) Proc. Lunar Sci. Conf. 2029-2040

Evolved gas to 2: Where did it come from? Comets? Asteroids? etc

1: Is water released and how much? What else?



420

E 0.15 Temperature (°C) L: Magnetic sector CAD

R: Preliminary ProSPA breadboard data (A Verchovsky, F Abernethy, J Mortimer)

3: Can we extract it to support exploration / ISRU? $FeTiO_3 + H_2 \rightarrow Fe + TiO_2 + H_2O$ Courtesy of S. Barber (OU)

Drilling and Sampling





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Drill testing



Two variants of lunar highland simulant NU-LHT-2M from USGS (right) and Zybek (Left) with very different mechanical properties (image Leonardo, Italy)



Significant differences in particle properties observed (K. Donaldson Hanna Oxford and D. Martyn & K. Joy (Manchester)

Currently assessing new ESA simulant EAC-1 as a mechanical simulant for testing



Imaging

- Monitor drilling and transfer operations
- Estimate sample quantity in ovens
- LED emission spectra to maximise opportunistic science
- Selected band passes centered at 415, 675, 750, 825, 900, 950 nm
- (Upper) RELAB reflectance spectra of common lunar minerals and (lower) a suite of lunar soils of varying maturities (N. Schmitz and K. Donaldson-Hanna)



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Extraction and chemical analysis







Soil 69961,33 data courtesy of E. Gibson Digitised by Spaceship EAC – database of release curves available

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Isotopic Analysis







Isotopic ratio	Associated molecular species	Expected precision	
δD	H ₂ ,H ₂ O, -OH, hydrocarbons	10‰	
δ ¹³ C	CO, CO ₂ , hydrocarbons	0.1 - 1‰	
δ ¹⁵ N	N ₂ , NH ₃ , nitrogen oxides	0.1 - 1‰	
δ ¹⁸ Ο	H ₂ O, CO and CO ₂	0.1‰	
↑ Expected isotopic measurement performance of the PROSPECT chemical laboratory			

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ISRU Roadmap, increasing lunar habitability

PROSPECT on Luna-27, embedded in international strategy, 2022

Prospecting and validation of key process steps and assumptions

ISRU technology and end-to-end Process demonstration and validation on Earth

Terrestrial ISRU system demonstrator by 2020

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Flight demonstration and qualification of critical ISRU technologies and end-to-end process

ISRU demonstration

mission

by 2025

In-situ and fully scalable pilot plant providing "useable" resources Full ISRU system in support of human lunar surface exploration

Human lunar surface campaign by 2030 Sustained human lunar operations by 2040

Courtesy of J. Carpenter 18







Future ISRU systems



Compatible with Human Precursor mission architecture from Deep Space Gateway

ESA IRSU system study + technology led by OHB-CGS with Poli. Di Milano Solid-gas phase carbothermal reduction



Oven (220-270°C) ESA UNCLASSIFIED - For Official Use Oven (900-1000°C)



Courtesy of J. Carpenter 20