



# Human Lunar Exploration Architectures

**John Connolly**

**NASA – JSC**

**October, 2012**





# **WELCOME ROCKET SCIENTISTS!**

# The Rocket Equation – It's Not Just a Good Idea, It's the LAW

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{T}{m} - g, \text{ rocket equation where}$$

$m = m(t)$ , mass of rocket and propellant a function of time

$$\Rightarrow dv = \frac{T}{m} dt - g \cdot dt$$

$$= \frac{-u \frac{dm}{dt}}{m} dt - g \cdot dt, \text{ where}$$

$$T = -u \frac{dm}{dt},$$

since  $\dot{m} = \frac{dm}{dt}$  is negative as the rocket

$$\Rightarrow dv = -u \frac{dm}{m} - g \cdot dt$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{v_o}^{v_{bo}} dv = \int_{m_o}^{m_{bo}} -u \frac{dm}{m} - \int_{t_o}^{t_{bo}} g \cdot dt, \text{ integrating from initial}$$

$$v \Big|_{v_o}^{v_{bo}} = -u \int_{m_o}^{m_{bo}} \frac{1}{m} dm - g \int_{t_o}^{t_{bo}} dt, u \text{ and } g \text{ are constants}$$

$$(v_{bo} - v_o) = -u \cdot \ln(m) \Big|_{m_o}^{m_{bo}} - g \cdot t \Big|_{t_o}^{t_{bo}}$$

$$= -u [\ln(m_{bo}) - \ln(m_o)] - g[t_{bo} - t_o]$$

$$= -u \cdot \ln \frac{m_{bo}}{m_o} - g[t_{bo} - 0]$$

$$\Rightarrow \therefore \boxed{(v_{bo} - v_o) = u \cdot \ln \frac{m_o}{m_{bo}} - g \cdot t_{bo}}, \text{ using ln power rule}$$

$$\Delta v = v_e \ln \left( \frac{m_i}{m_f} \right)$$



# How You Get There/What You Do There



Human Lunar Exploration is a function of two primary variables:

- The transportation architecture (“How You Get There”)
- and
- The Surface Mission Architecture (“What You Do There”)

These two variables are utterly interrelated, but are often decided without regard to the other

Further, “What you do there” is often a function of what you can get there!

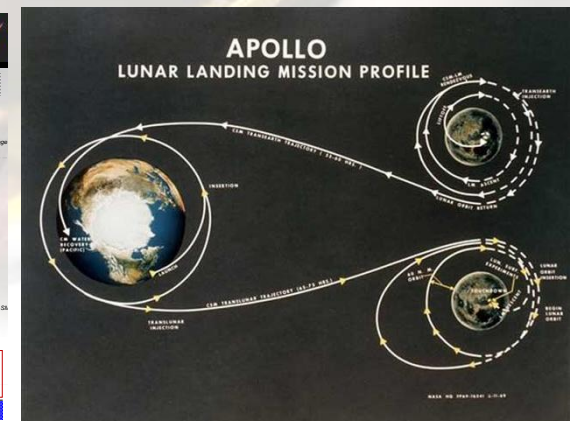
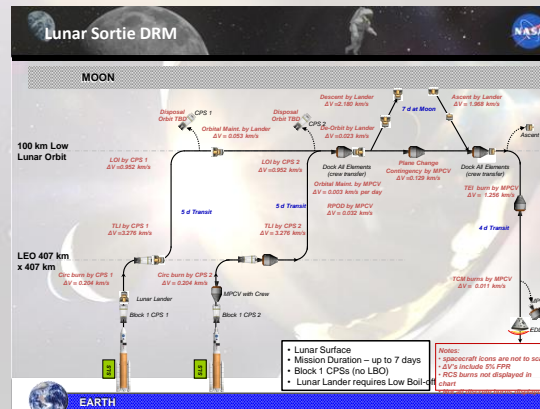
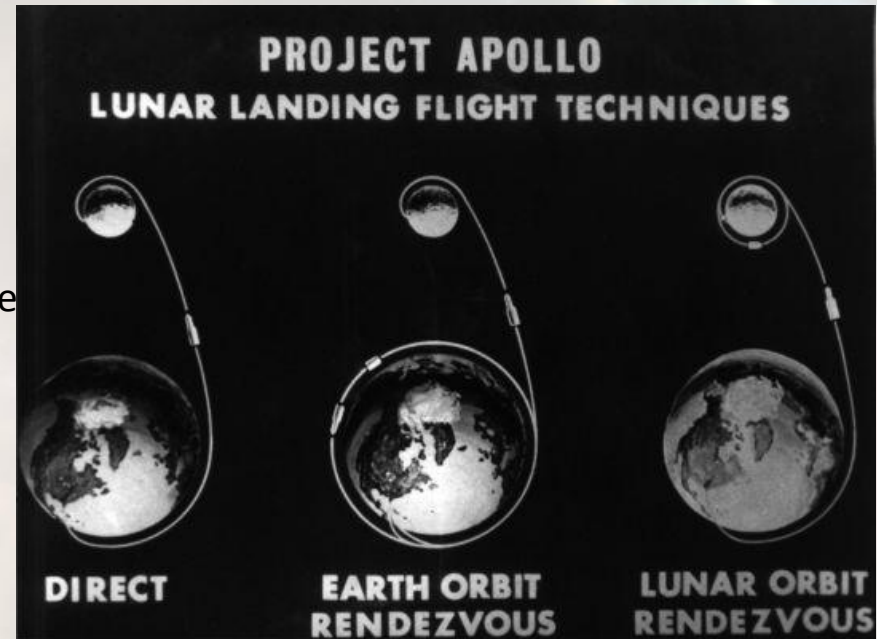


# How You Get There: Current Lunar Transportation Options

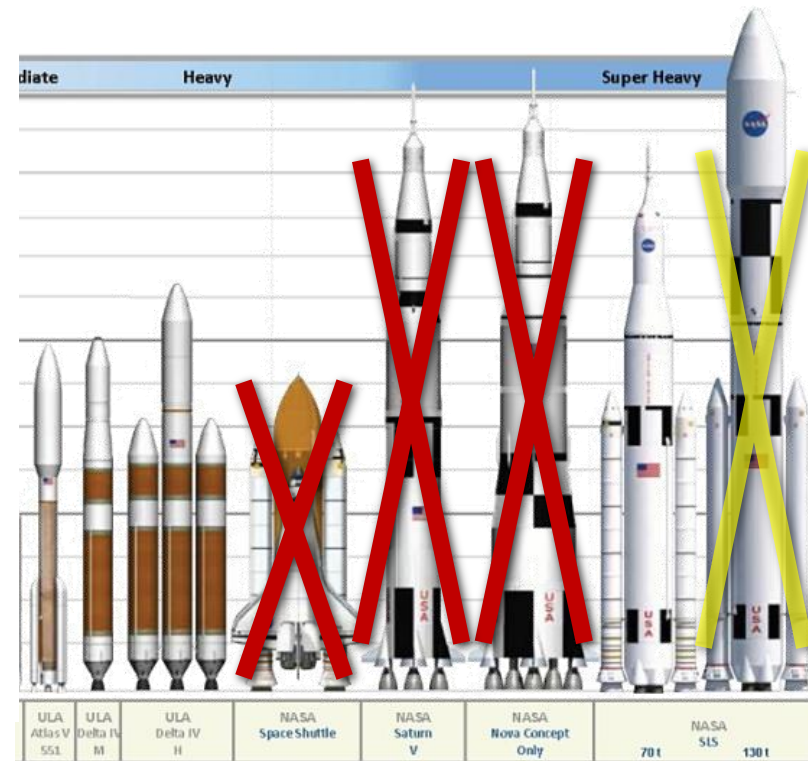
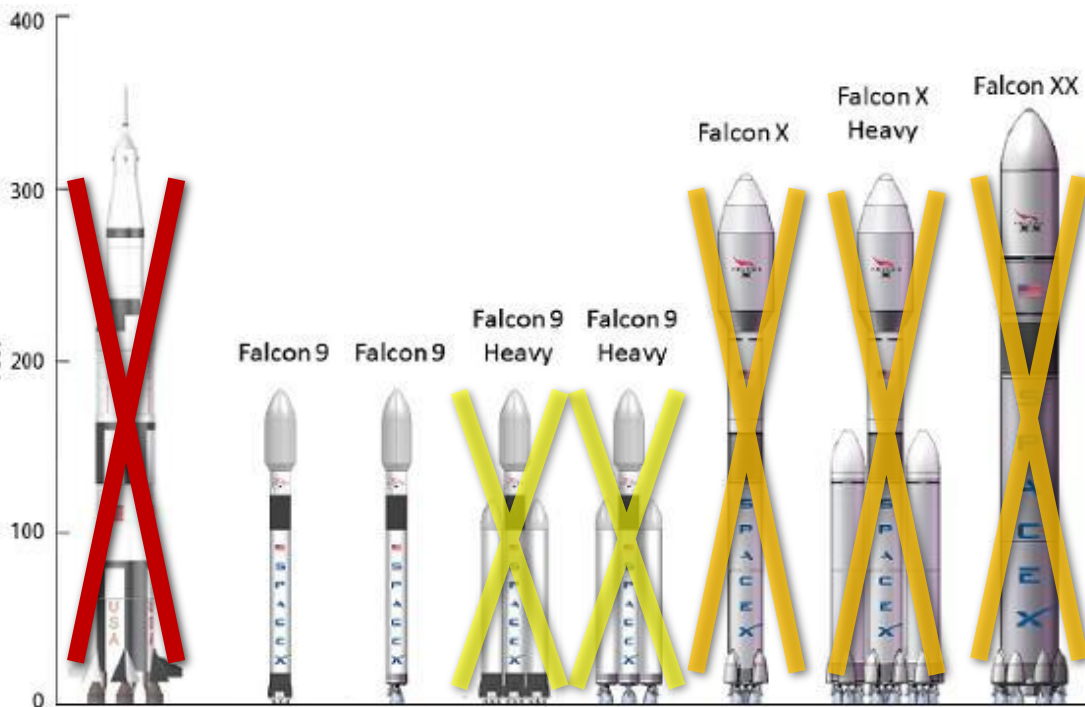


Lunar Transportation can be further defined by a series of architectural choices:

- Launch vehicle capability
  - Space Launch System (Block 1, 1A, II)
  - Falcon (9, 9 Heavy, X)
  - Delta IV (Medium, Medium+, Heavy)
  - International Launch Vehicles (HIIA, Ariane)
- Staging locations
  - None (direct)
  - Low Earth orbit (LEO, includes ISS)
  - High Earth Orbit (HEO)
  - Libration Points (L1, L2)
  - High Lunar Orbit (HLO)
  - Low lunar orbit (LLO)



# Current Launch Vehicle Options

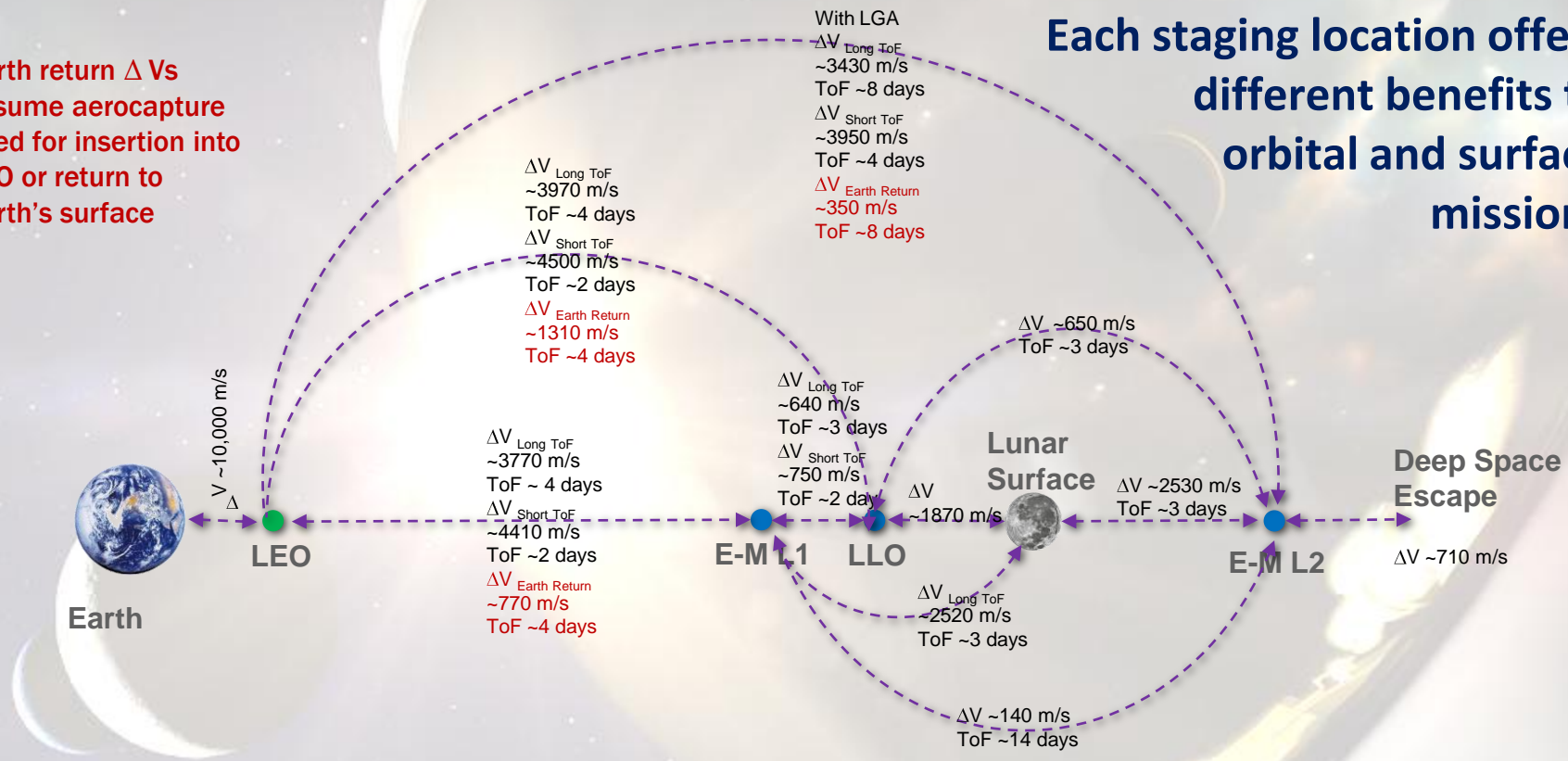


# Earth-Moon Delta-V/ToF Network



Earth return  $\Delta V$ s  
assume aerocapture  
used for insertion into  
LEO or return to  
Earth's surface

Each staging location offers  
different benefits to  
orbital and surface  
missions



LTO

LLO

E-M L1

E-M L2

LEO

Lunar Transfer Orbit

Low Lunar Orbit

Earth-Moon Libration Point L1

Earth-Moon Libration Point L2

Low Earth Orbit

Staging location will affect :

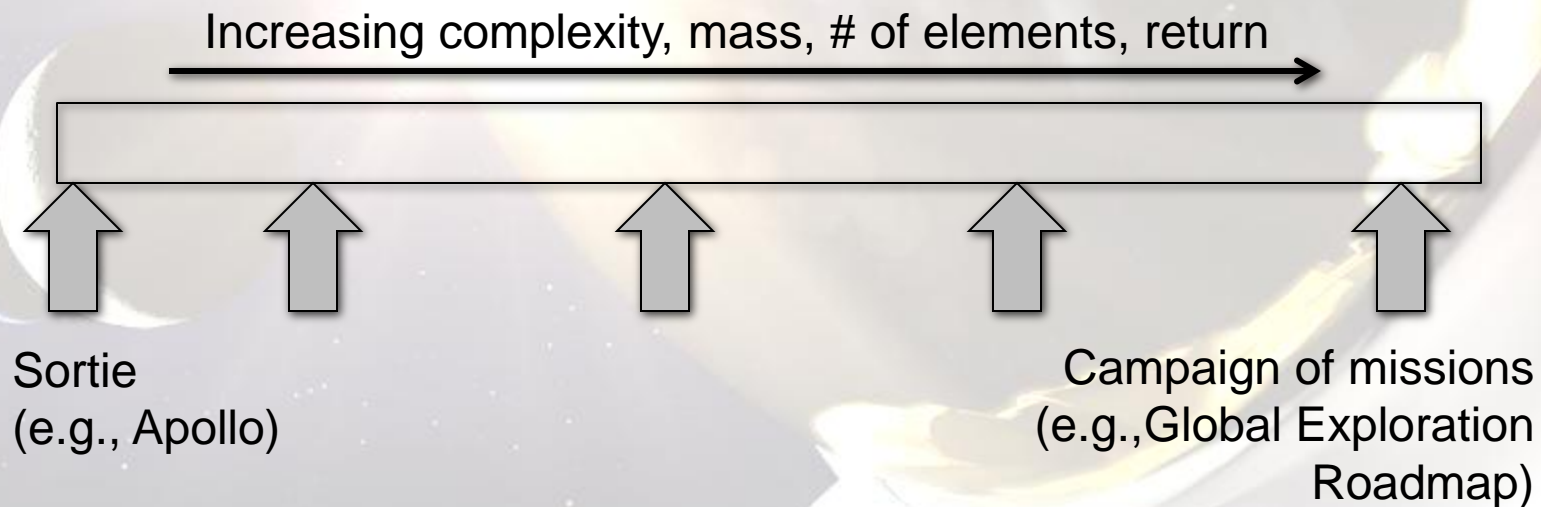
- Flight time to/from the surface
- Surface access
- Mass that can be landed
- “Split” of maneuvers among propulsive stages



# **“What You Do There” – Lunar Surface Mission Options**



- **Like transportation, the lunar surface mission is further defined by a series of mission content and operational choices**
- **The combination of these choices will determine the overall scope of the mission**





# Lunar Surface Mission Variables



Increasing complexity, mass, # of elements, return

Sortie

Campaign

Science Content	Sortie geology				Multidisciplinary science
Surface Area Explored	Local (EVA walking distance)				1000's of km
Landing site diversity/access	Polar/equatorial				Global access
Surface Mission Duration	Lunar daytime				Multiple months
EVA hours	2 crew minimum EVA				Full crew maximize EVA hours
Amount of self reliance	None				Autonomy + full ISRU
SKG's addressed	Few				Most
Human Research addressed	Few				Most
Technology infusion	TRL now				Maximize new technology
Contribution to Mars preparation	Minimal				Fully Mars focused
International participation	None				Fully integrated
Commercial participation	None				Fully integrated

# Lunar Surface Mission Study History



- 1985 Lunar Bases book (Mendell)
- 1988 Eagle Engineering LBSS Study
- 1989 90-day study
  - 4 options
- 1990 LMEPO Architectures
  - 4 options
- 1991 Synthesis Group
- 1992 First Lunar Outpost
- 1993 LUNOX
- 1999 Decadal Planning Team (DPT)
- 2001 NEXT
- 2003 Space Architect Studies
- 2004 Concept Exploration and Refinement (CE&R) Studies
- 2004 LaRC/JSC Transportation Studies
- 2005 ESAS
- 2006 LAT 1
- 2007 LAT2
- 2008 Cx/LSS Surface Architecture Reference (SARD)
- 200x LSS Scenarios
- CxAT-Lunar
- 2010 GPOD
- 2011 HAT

- Option 1 – Mini-habitat elements with Crew Lander (LAT-1)  
 Option 2 – Mini-habitat elements with Crew/Cargo Lander  
 Option 3 – Single Delivery, Monolithic Habitat  
 Option 4 – Mobile Lander Habitat System  
 Option 5 – Early Delivery of Pressurized Rover  
 Option 6 – Nuclear Surface Fission Power

Scenario	Description
4	Rebuild of LCCR scenarios increasing crew flights to at least 2 per year
5	Nuclear power based scenarios – Use a fission reactor as the primary power source
6	Power beaming scenarios – Consider ways to beam power from orbit or surface to systems
7	Recyclable lander – Scenarios that make massive reuse of lander components to build up the Outpost and surface infrastructure
8	Extreme mobility – Scenarios that deploy Small Pressurized Rovers early and use them as primary habitation
9	Side-mount or underslung Lander – Scenarios that support a lander configured to make unloading much easier than 6m deck
10	Refuelable lander – Scenarios that support a lander designed for multiple flights to and from LLO
11	Mars Centric – Scenarios that optimize Mars exploration needs early
12	Pre-Global Point-of-Departure Architecture
13	Cargo Capability Limited Architecture Study



# LUNAR SURFACE- SORTIE



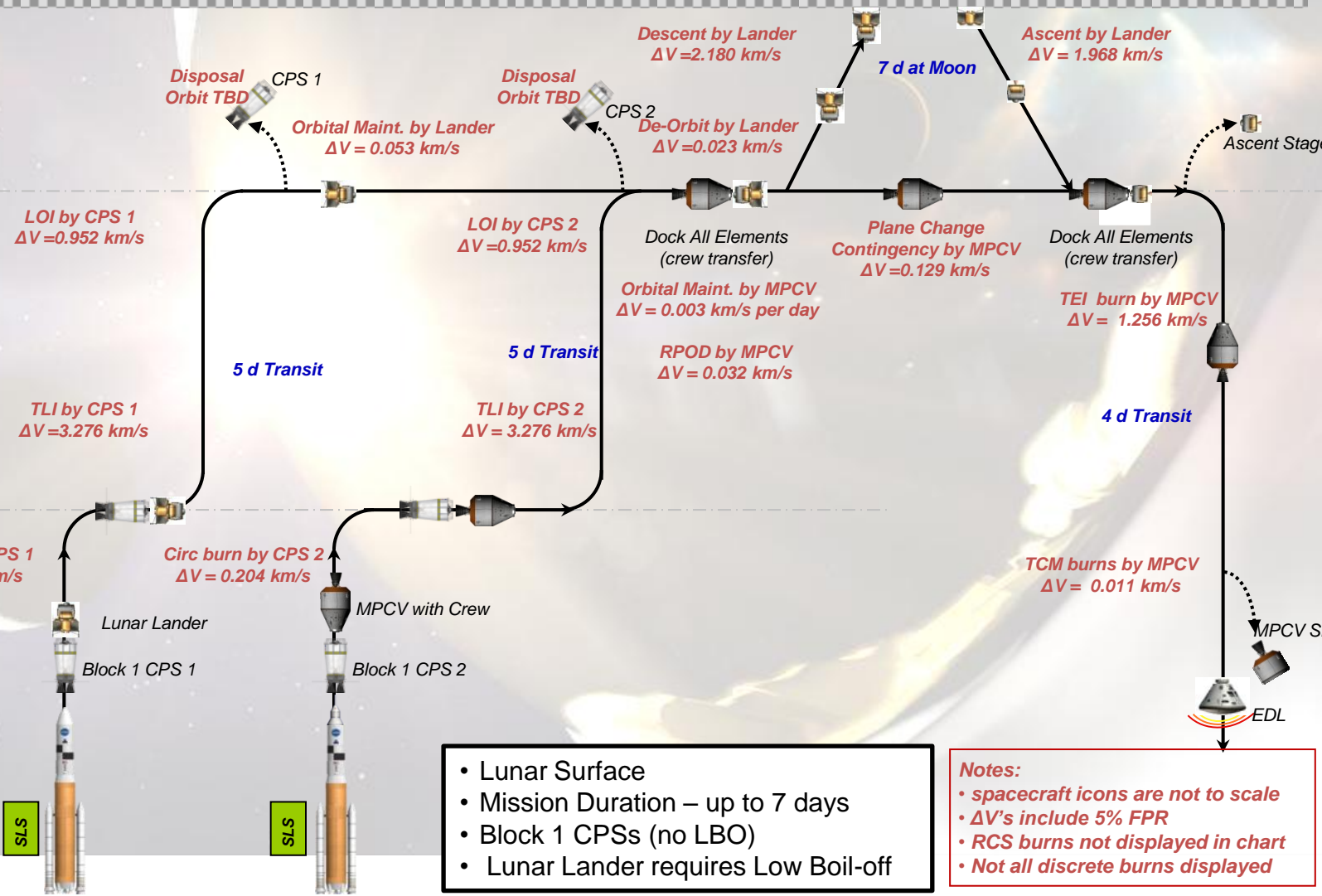
# Lunar Sortie DRM



MOON

100 km Low Lunar Orbit

LEO 407 km x 407 km



- Lunar Surface
- Mission Duration – up to 7 days
- Block 1 CPSs (no LBO)
- Lunar Lander requires Low Boil-off

**Notes:**

- spacecraft icons are not to scale
- $\Delta V$ 's include 5% FPR
- RCS burns not displayed in chart
- Not all discrete burns displayed

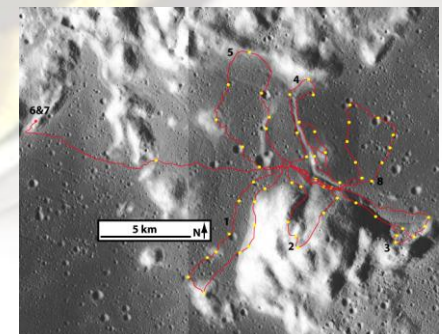
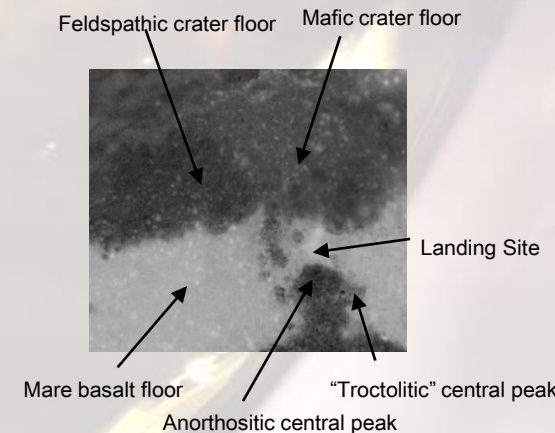
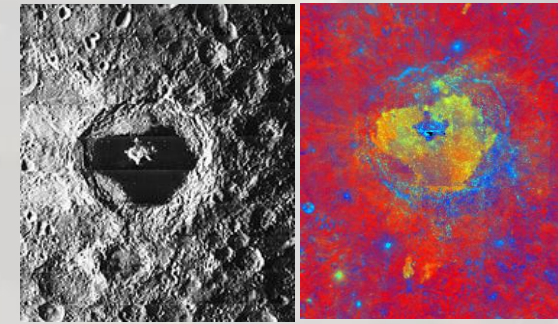
EARTH



# Tsiolkovsky Sortie Overview

(Helper, Shearer, Spudis, Bleacher, 2006)

- Landing site near the central peak of Tsiolkovsky Crater
- 4 Crew performs EVA each landed day (28 EVA days total)
- Crew lives out of lander's hab module
- 2 unpressurized rovers
- Geology emphasis – sampling of 4 different geological units within roving distance of landing site
- 1 long EVA of ~32 km round-trip (EVA “6/7”)
- All other EVAs < 20 km round trip
- LRV traverse geological sampling
  - Stop every kilometer and sample regolith
  - Selected rake samples
- **Ground penetrating radar**
  - Map subsurface structure and determine mare thickness
- **Deploy network of instrument station sites**
  - Geophones
  - Seismic sources
  - Surface magnetometers



# Tsiolkovsky Sortie Overview

## "Street View" Chart



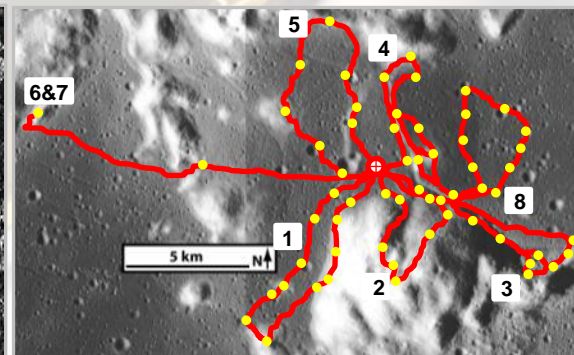
### Mission Summary

- Four crew spend one week exploring the Tsiolkovsky Crater in daily EVAs.
- Geology focus with significant sample return
- Unpressurized rovers, maximum 32 km traverse
- Ground penetrating radar to map subsurface structure and determine mare thickness
- Geologic instrument deployment

### Mission Elements

- 2x Rechargeable unpressurized rovers
- Geological Sampling tools
- Ground penetrating radar
- Network of instrument station sites
  - Geophones
  - Seismic sources
  - Surface magnetometers

### Mission Site: Tsiolkovsky Crater





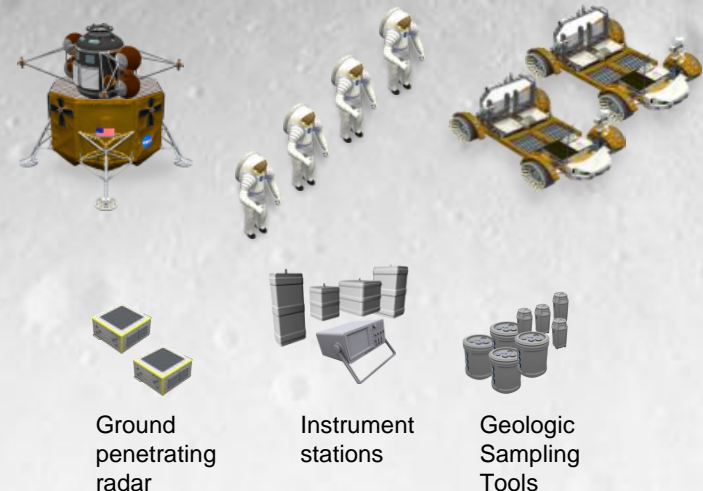
# Tsiolkovsky Sortie Overview

## Destination Elements



- **Unpressurized rovers (2)**
- **Ground penetrating radar**
  - Map subsurface structure and determine mare thickness
- **Instrument stations**
  - Geophones
  - Seismic sources
  - Surface magnetometers
- **Geological sampling tools**
  - Core drills
  - Sample rakes
  - Bulk sample tool
  - Sample bags
  - Cameras

Element	SAIF ID	Mass (t)	FSE (t)
Unpressurized Rovers (2)		400.00	
Ground Penetrating Radar (2)		40.00	
Instrument Stations (4):			
Geophones		44.80	
Seismic sources		incl. above	
Surface magnetometers		34.40	
Geologic Sampling Tools:			5.90
Core drills (2)		33.80	
Sample rakes (2)		3.00	
Bulk sample tools (4)		16.80	
Sample bags		8.00	
Cameras (4)		25.00	
Sample Return Container (6)		24.00	
<b>Total</b>		635.70	
<b>Capability</b>		500.00	
<b>Difference</b>		-135.70	





# GER-DERIVED LUNAR DESTINATION DRM



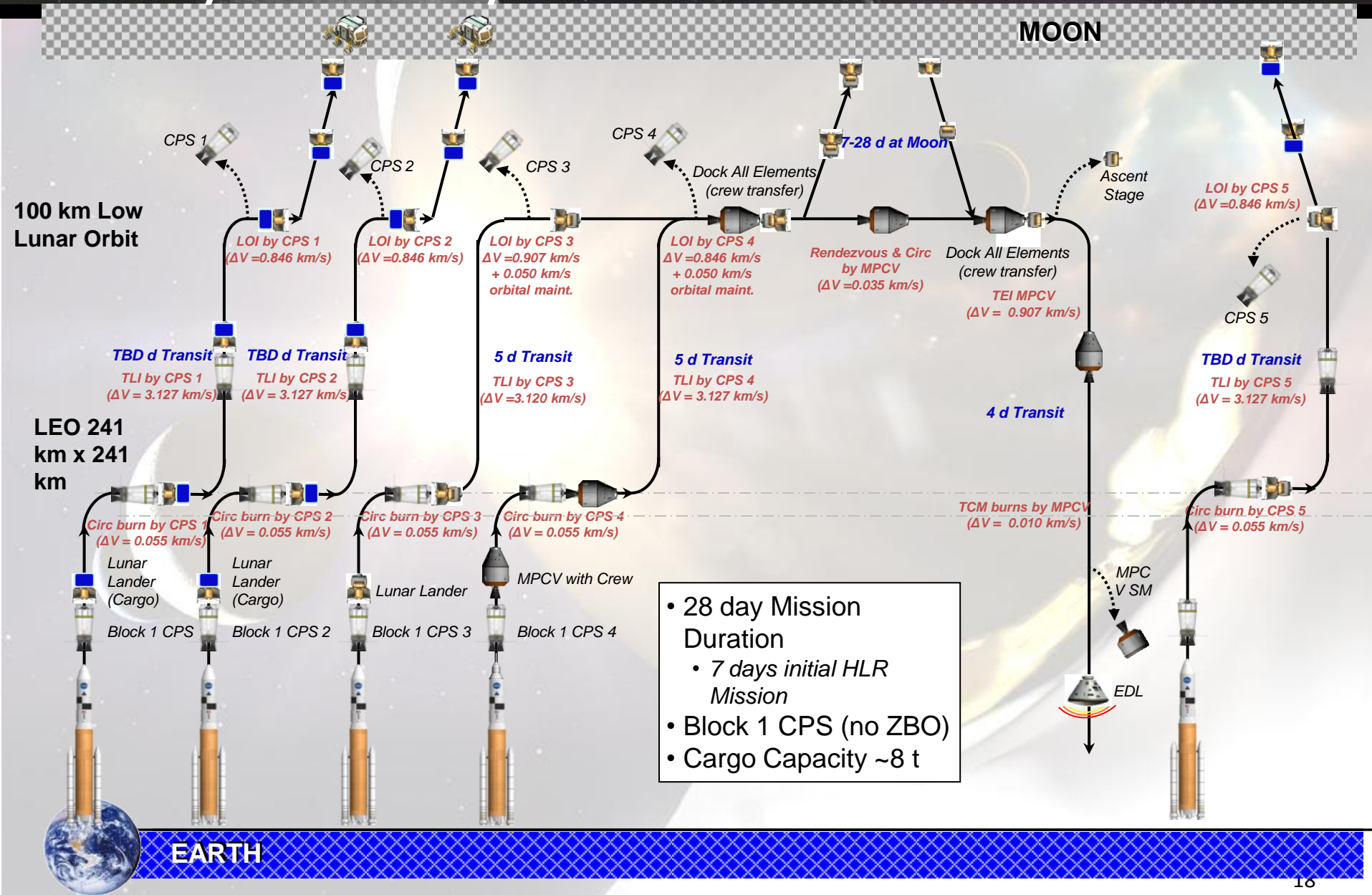
# GER-Derived Lunar Destination DRM

**This lunar destination DRM is derived from the GER Lunar mission:**

- Multiple (5) extended stay (up to 28 day) missions, beginning with robotic precursors and initial cargo landers
- Lunar surface emphasis is to test the capabilities and learn self-sufficiency in preparation for human Mars missions
- 4 crew
- Polar site
- Small cargo landers (1 mt)
- Larger cargo landers (8 mt)
- Automated predeployment
- Rover chassis
- Resources
- Pressurized Rover: Mobile Habitation
- Long-distance mobility (100's km)
- Technologies:
  - Mobility
  - Dust control
  - Habitation
  - Autonomous landing and hazard avoidance
  - Advanced surface power (if available)

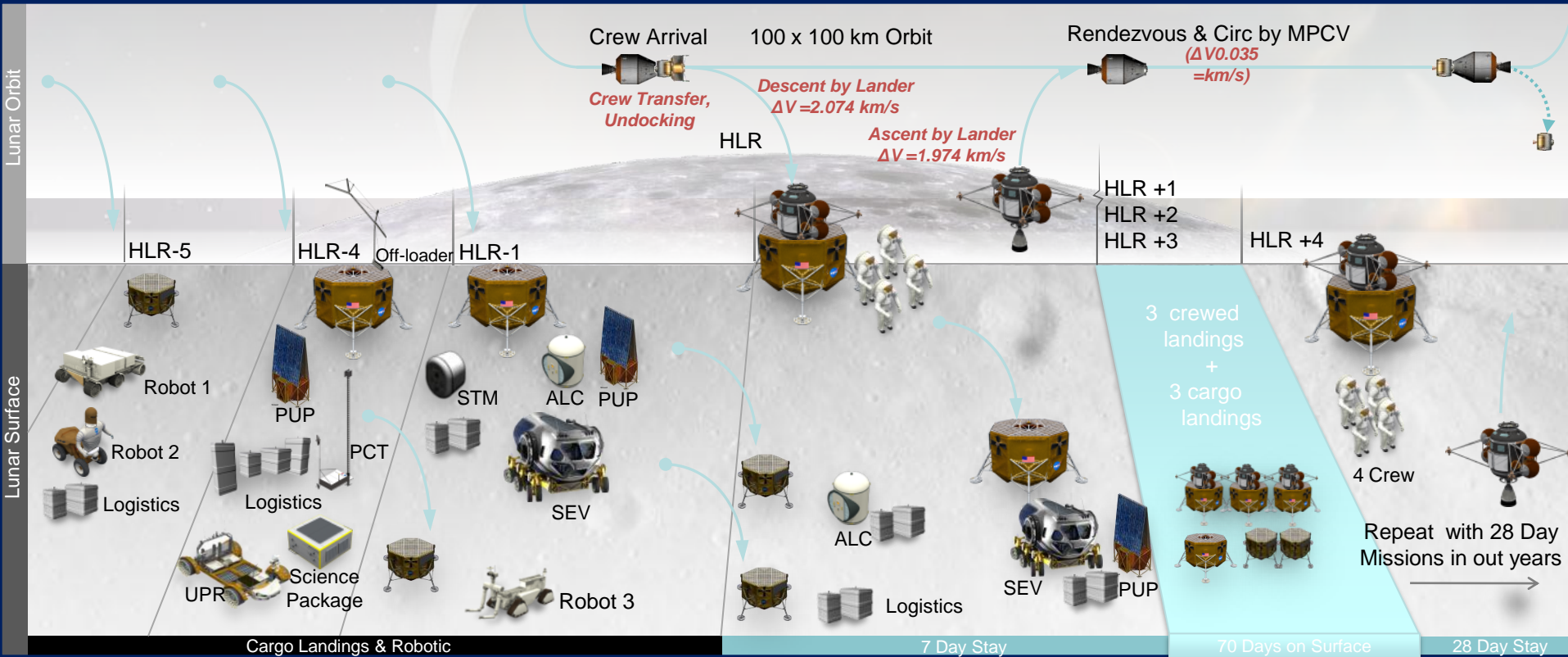
# GER – Lunar Surface Mission

## 7-28 day Extended Stay Mission with HLLV



# GER Extended Stay & Surface Mobility Emphasis

4 large cargo landers, 6 small cargo landers, 5 crewed missions



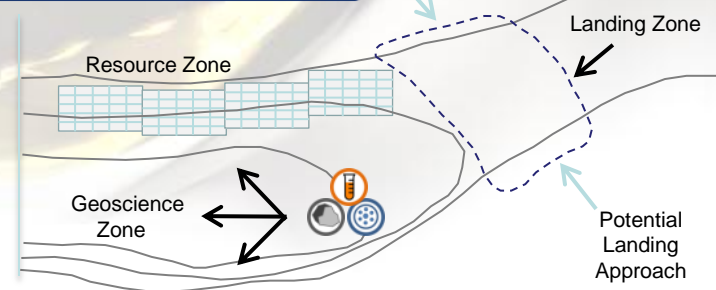
## Mission Summary

Five years prior to Human Lunar Return, cargo missions begin to deliver robotics and science equipment. The crew arrives with two large cargo landers and two small logistics landers, and spends 7 days on the surface. Over the next five years, a total of five crewed missions with surface stays of up to 28 days are completed.

## Select Elements

Element	QT	Y	Element	QT	Y
Centaur 2	1		ALC	7	
Rapier	1		STM	1	
PUP	3		SEV	2	
PCT	1		Selene	1	

## Mission Site: Shackleton Rim

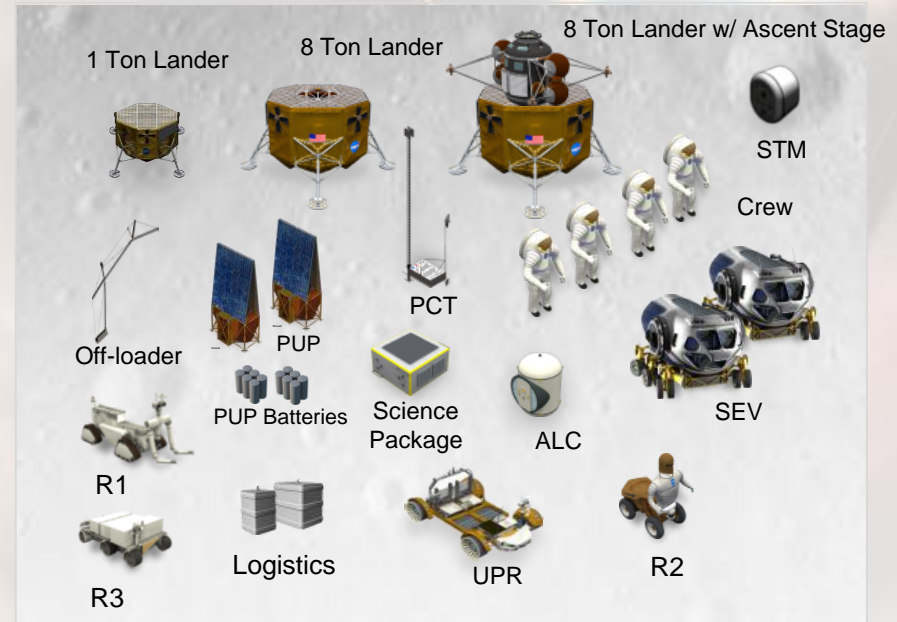




# GER Destination Elements


- The GER DRM accumulates surface elements prior to the crew's arrival via a combination of small (~1 mt) and large (~8 mt) cargo landers

Element	QT Y	Notes
Crew	4	International Astronaut Crew
PUP (Portable Utility Pallet)	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 kW-hr battery storage each</li> <li>2 kW solar array each</li> <li>Transported by SEVs</li> </ul>
PCT (Portable Communications Terminal)	1	Provides high bandwidth communications Transported by PUP It is assumed that at least 1 LRS is on orbit
Robotic Precursor 1 (R1)	1	Small International Science Rover
Robotic Precursor 3 (R3)	1	Small International Science Rover
UPR (Unpressurized Rover)	1	Provides Excursion Capability before second SEV arrives
Off-loader (LSMS or Cradle)	1	Can tele-robotically offload cargo landers or be used off the back of an SEV.
Science Package	1	Pre-deployed in second mission
Logistics	9	Multiple logistics payloads required for 28 day capability
STM (Suitport Transfer Module)	1	Allows transfer of material through a Suitport
SEV (Space Exploration Vehicle)	2	200 kW-hr battery storage each Average speed toward destination = 5 km/hr



Element	QT(Y)	Notes
Robotic Precursor 2 (R2)	1	Small NASA Robotic Assistant & Science Rover
ALC (Airlock Logistics Carrier)	7	Pressurized Logistics



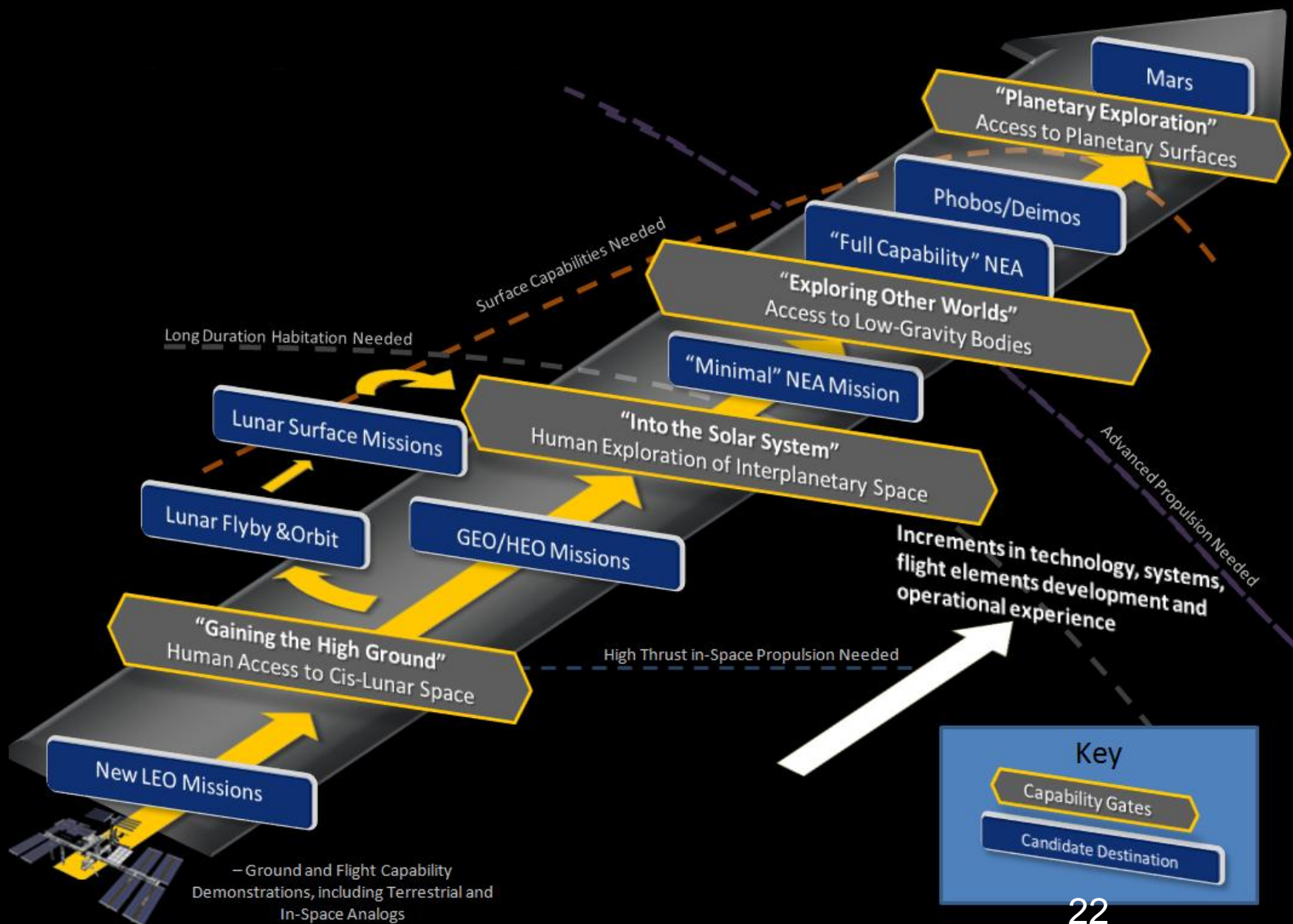


# Mission-Driven vs. Capability Driven



- In a perfect world, all space missions would be “Mission Driven” – the desired science (or other end goals) would dictate the size and scope of the mission.
  - Apollo example: “land a man on the moon and return him safely to the Earth” drove technology development and the design of all the mission elements.
  - Space Shuttle: reusability and large payload carrying requirements
- Most ALL current space missions are “Capability Driven” – the capabilities of existing launch vehicles and spacecraft technology limit what missions CAN be done, and missions are proposed within these capabilities
- Incremental capability increases (due mainly to new or incremental technology insertion) provides some relief to capability limitations
  - Mars Science Laboratory: 6 wheel rocker-bogey rover, Viking entry system, RTG power system (demonstrated capabilities); “sky crane” landing system, aeromaneuvering precision guidance (increased capabilities)

# "Flexible Path" Exploration Architecture





# Concluding Observations



- **Human lunar missions are shaped by 2 distinct, but related variables:**
  - Transportation architecture
  - Surface mission architecture
- **A wide range of lunar surface mission content is possible from most any cis-lunar staging location**
- **The physics of spaceflight has not changed since Apollo**
- **Technology has changed only incrementally since Apollo**
- **Therefore, the options available for the conduct of space missions have changed only incrementally since Apollo**
- **What HAS changed is NASA's shift to a capability-driven "Flexible Path Architecture"**
  - Near-term human exploration capabilities include the Space Launch System (SLS), the Orion crew vehicle, commercial LEO capabilities, and the international partnership begun with the ISS



**Thank you and congratulations,  
Rocket Scientists!**

$$\Delta v = v_e \ln \left( \frac{m_i}{m_f} \right)$$