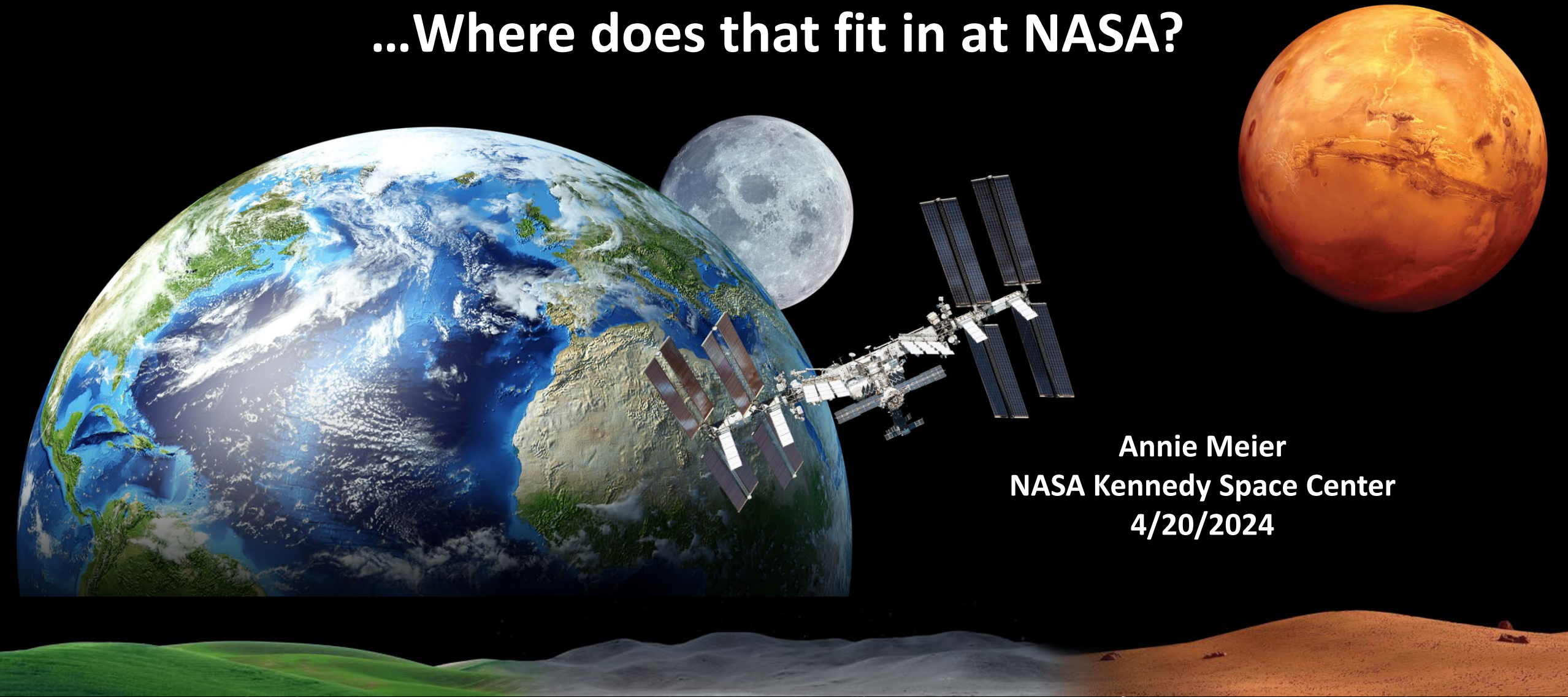




# RESOURCE RECOVERY from TRASH

## ...Where does that fit in at NASA?



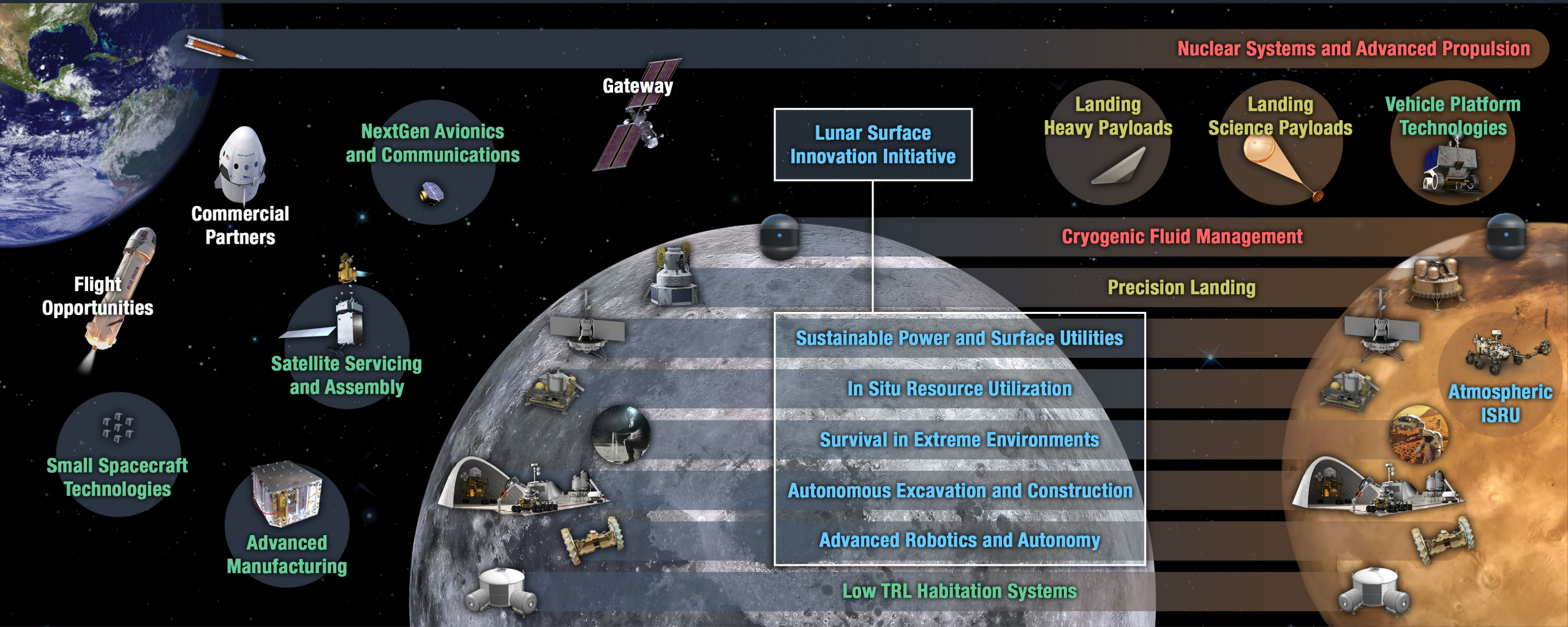
Annie Meier  
NASA Kennedy Space Center  
4/20/2024

# Rapid, Safe, and Efficient Space Transportation

# Expanded Access to Diverse Surface Destinations

# Sustainable Living and Working Farther from Earth

# Transformative Missions and Discoveries



# Mission Needs Drive Design

## LOW EARTH RETURN

**3 HOURS**

**3,000°F**

**17,500 MPH**

**250 MILES**



## LUNAR RETURN

**3 DAYS**

**5,200°F**

**24,700 MPH**

**240,000 MILES**



## MARS RETURN

**9 MONTHS**

**6,200°F**

**26,800 MPH**

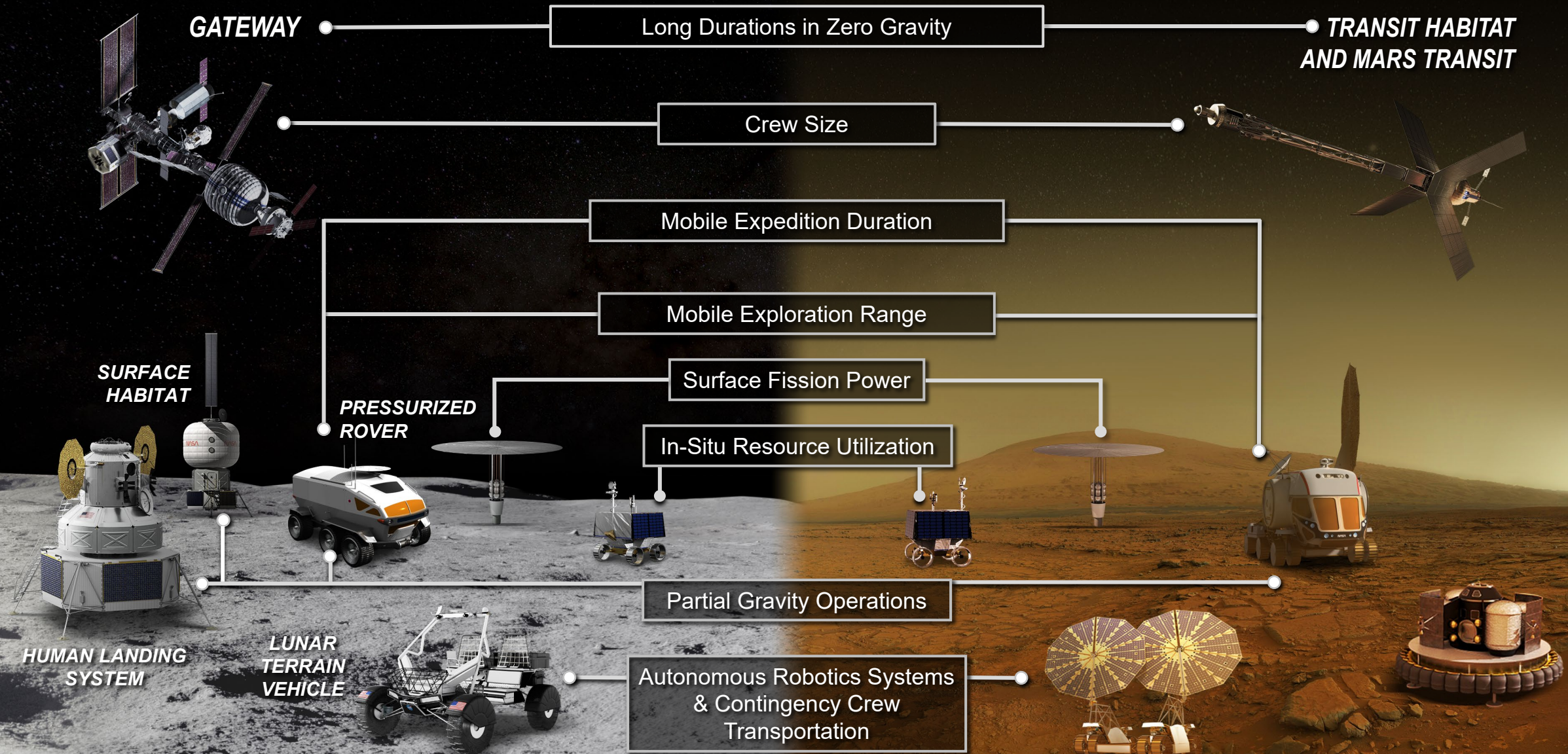
**39,000,000 MILES**



*\*Numbers are averages*

# MOON AND MARS EXPLORATION

*Operations on and around the Moon will help prepare for the first human mission to Mars*



# Artemis: A Foundation for Deep Space Exploration



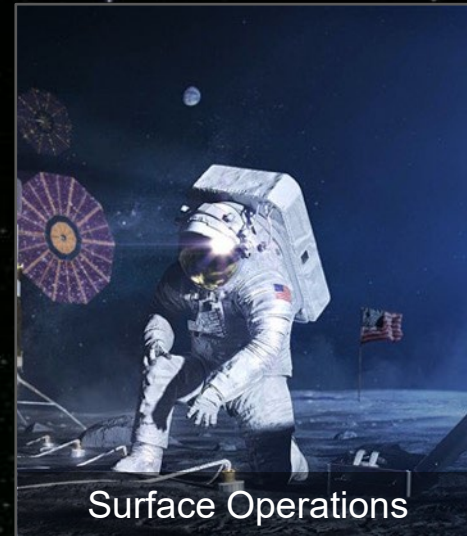
Space Launch System



Orion Spacecraft



Human Landing System



Surface Operations



Gateway



Exploration Ground Systems



Space Communications  
& Navigation



Surface Mobility



Space Suits



Artemis Base Camp



# ARTEMIS ACCORDS



United for Peaceful Exploration of Deep Space

## Artemis I: 2022

*Uncrewed flight test*

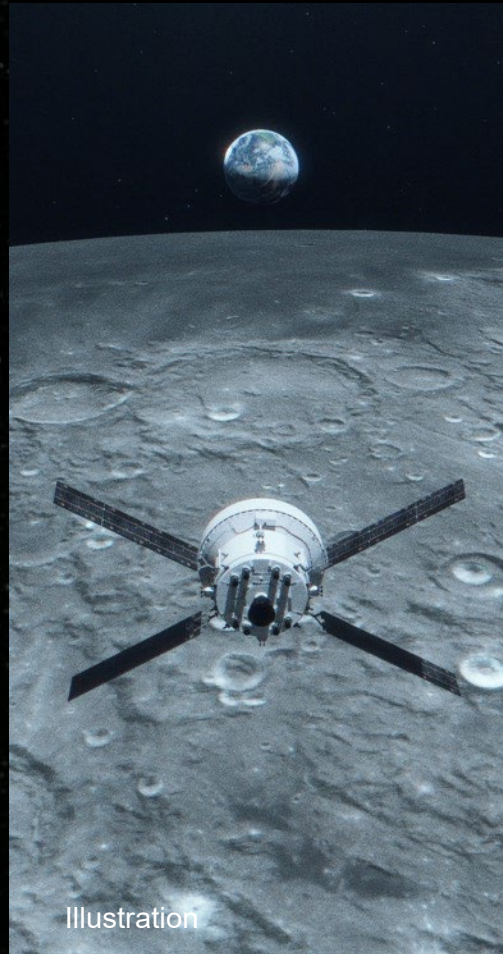
**COMPLETE**



SLS, Orion, EGS

## Artemis II: 2024

*Crewed flight test*



Illustration

SLS, Orion, EGS

## Artemis III: 2025

*Crewed surface expedition*

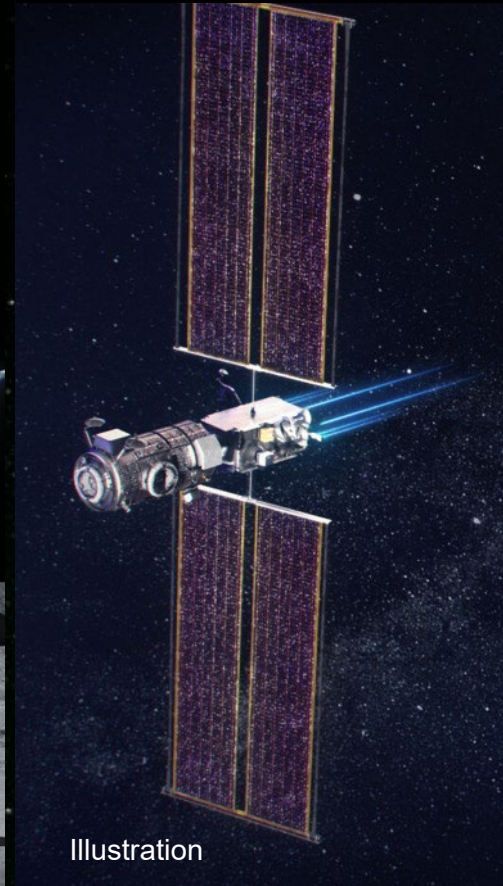


Illustration

SLS, Orion, EGS, HLS

## Artemis IV

*Gateway assembly,  
crewed sustaining  
lander expedition*



Illustration

SLS, Orion, EGS,  
HLS, Gateway  
(PPE/HALO, I-HAB)

## Artemis V

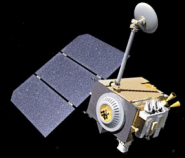
*Crewed mobile  
surface exploration,  
Gateway expansion*



Illustration

SLS, Orion, EGS,  
HLS, LTV, Gateway  
(ESPRIT, Canadarm3)

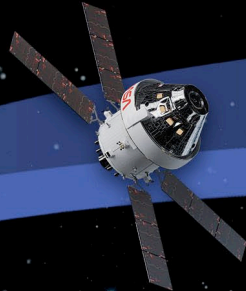
# Artemis: Landing Humans On the Moon



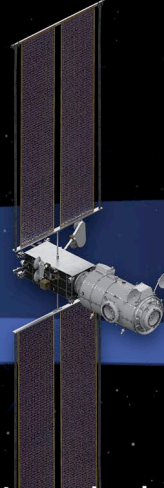
Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter: Continued surface and landing site investigation



Artemis I: First human spacecraft to the Moon in the 21st century



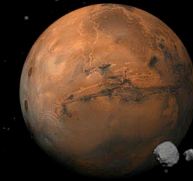
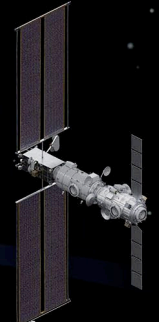
Artemis II: First humans to orbit the Moon and rendezvous in deep space in the 21st century



Gateway begins science operations with launch of Power and Propulsion Element and Habitation and Logistics Outpost



Artemis III-V: Deep space crew missions; cislunar buildup and initial crew demonstration landing with Human Landing System



**Early South Pole Robotic Landings**  
Science and technology payloads delivered by Commercial Lunar Payload Services providers

**Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover**  
First mobility-enhanced lunar volatiles survey

*Uncrewed HLS Demonstration*

**Humans on the Moon - 21st Century**  
First crew expedition to the lunar surface

**LUNAR SOUTH POLE TARGET SITE**

# Commercial Lunar Payload Services

*14 CLPS providers are currently on contract and eligible to bid on payload deliveries to the Moon*



# Artemis Base Camp Buildup

First lunar surface expedition through Gateway; external robotic system added to Gateway; Lunar Terrain Vehicle delivered to the surface

Sustainable operations with crew landing services; Gateway enhancements with refueling capability, additional communications, and viewing capabilities

Pressurized rover delivered for greater exploration range on the surface; Gateway enables longer missions

Surface habitat delivered, allowing up to four crew on the surface for longer periods of time leveraging extracted resources. Mars mission simulations continue with orbital and surface assets

Lunar Terrain Vehicle (LTV)

Crew Landing Services

Pressurized Rover

Fission Surface Power

ISRU Pilot Plant

Surface Habitat

**SUSTAINABLE LUNAR ORBIT STAGING CAPABILITY AND SURFACE EXPLORATION**

MULTIPLE SCIENCE AND CARGO PAYLOADS | U.S. GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES | TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONS DEMONSTRATIONS FOR MARS

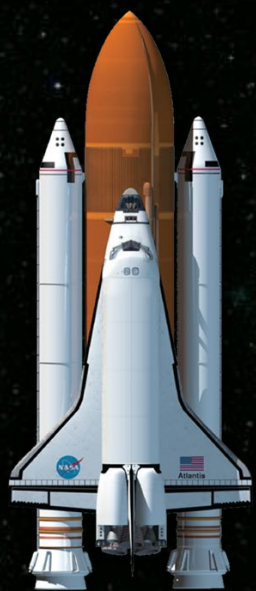


# EGS

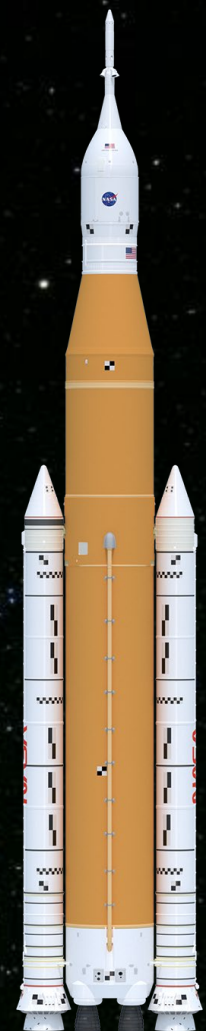




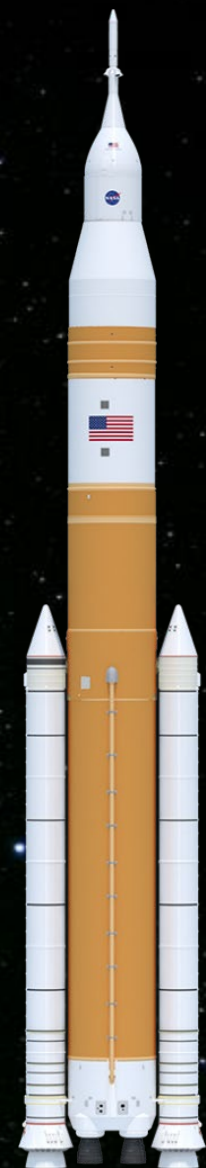
STATUE OF LIBERTY  
305 ft.



SPACE SHUTTLE  
184 ft.



SLS / ORION Block I  
322 ft.



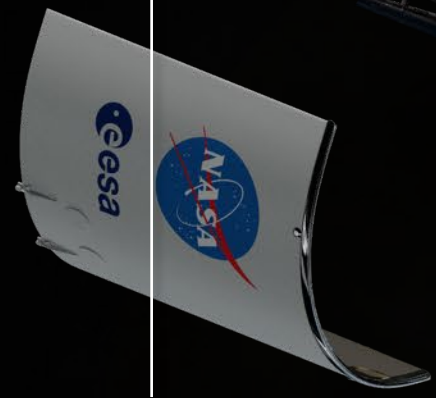
SLS / ORION Block II  
364 ft.



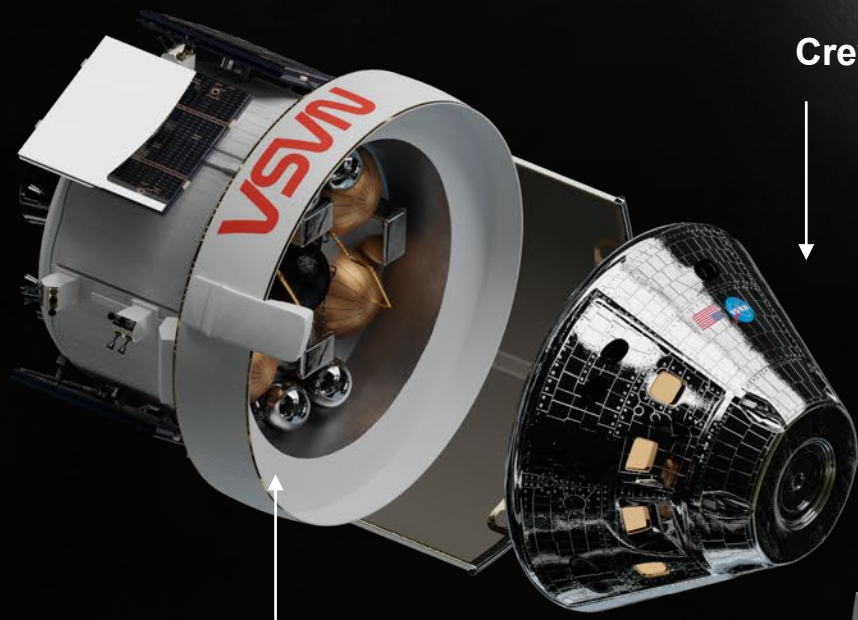
SATURN 5  
363 ft.



Spacecraft Adapter  
Jettison  
Panels



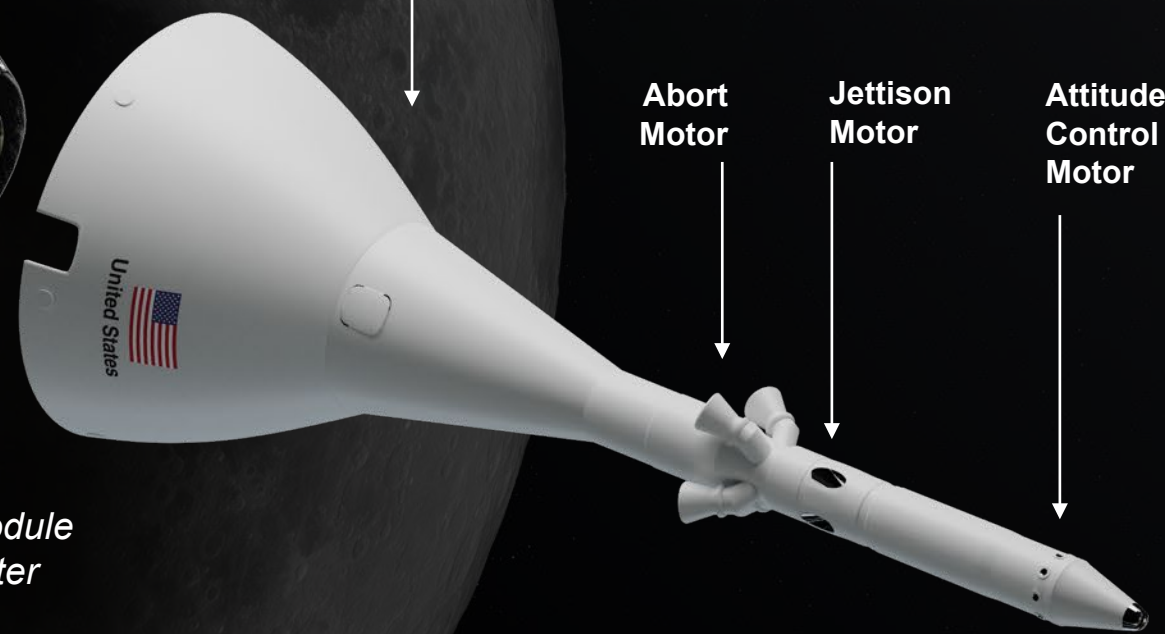
Spacecraft Adapter



Crew Module (CM)

Service Module (SM)  
*Includes the European Service Module  
and the NASA Crew Module Adapter*

Launch Abort System



Abort  
Motor

Jettison  
Motor

Attitude  
Control  
Motor

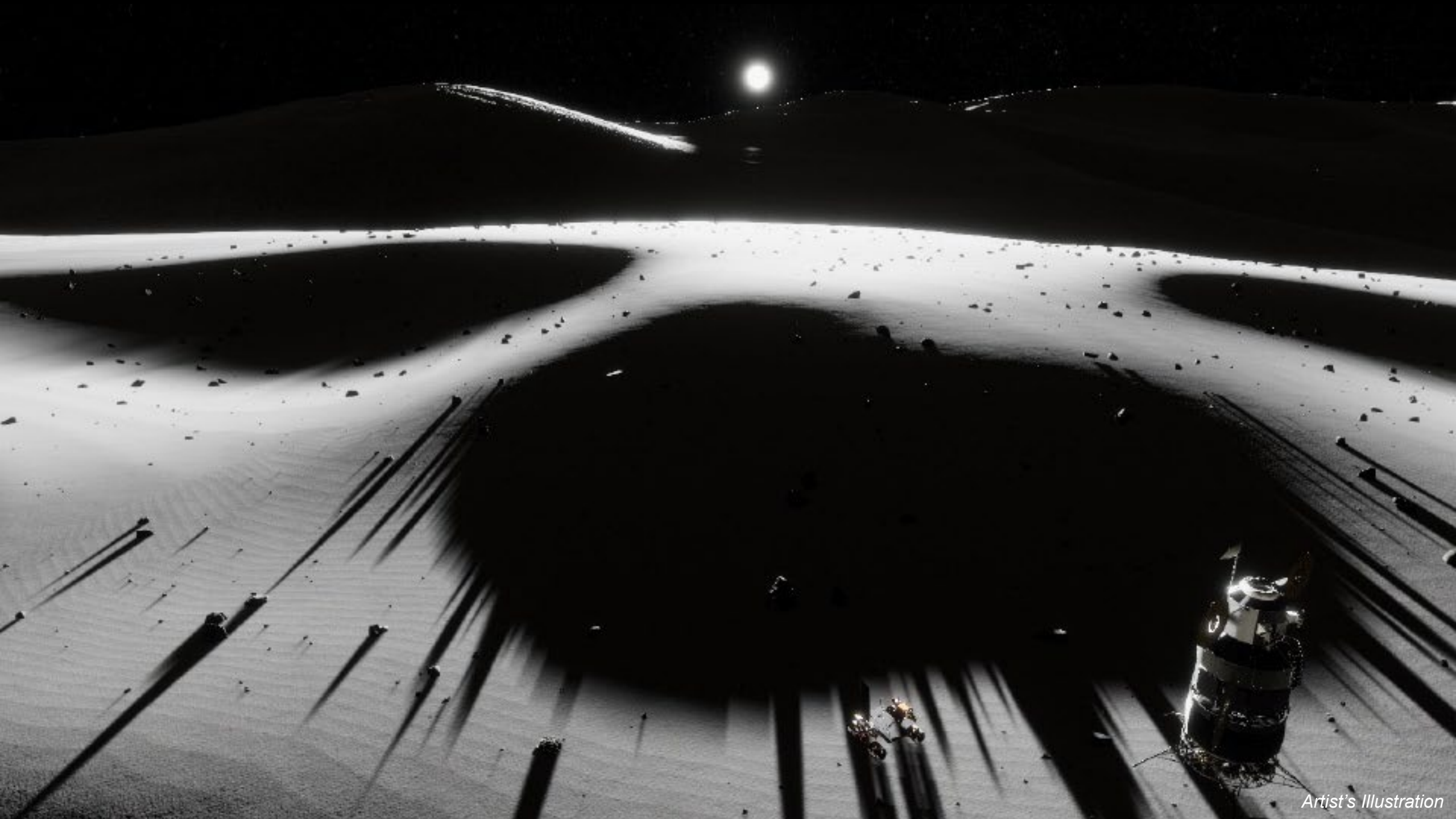
# GATEWAY ASSEMBLED





HOW DO YOU LIVE AND WORK  
BEYOND LOW EARTH ORBIT  
**UTILIZING** as many of the **RESOURCES** around you?  
How do we do this **SUSTAINIBLY**?





Artist's Illustration

# LUNAR SURFACE SYSTEMS & INFRASTRUCTURE



# Surface Habitat



Will be a primary asset to achieve a sustained lunar presence.

NASA is working with industry to develop conceptual designs for the Surface Habitat.

- 
- 2-4 crew – medical, exercise, galley, crew quarters, stowage
  - Houses 2 crew for 30 days
  - EVA capable via suitports and includes airlock for suit maintenance capability
  - Power generation, recharge capability for surface assets
  - Communication hub for surface assets
  - Reuse for multiple missions of 15-year lifetime



*Artist's illustration*

# Pressurized Rover



Provides pressurized mobile habitation to enable long-range surface exploration in shirtsleeve environment and access to surface for exploration.

- Habitation for 30 days for 2 crew
- Allows astronauts to explore outside the vehicle in their spacesuits
- Provides volume for spares and logistics
- Power generation and energy storage for lunar environment
- Dust and radiation protection
- Reuse for multiple missions of 10-year lifetime
- Capability also identified in current concepts for first human mission to Mars

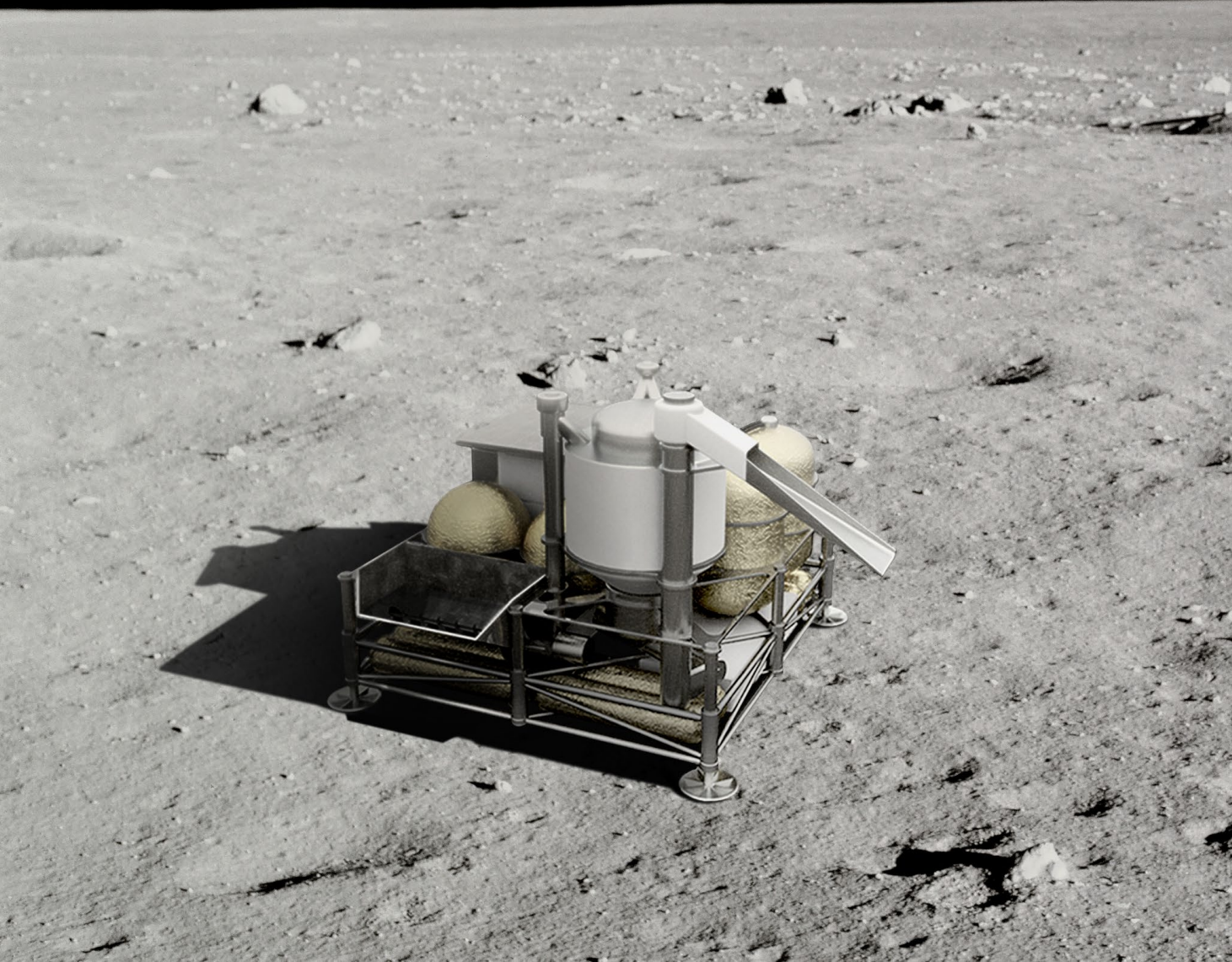
*Artist's illustration*

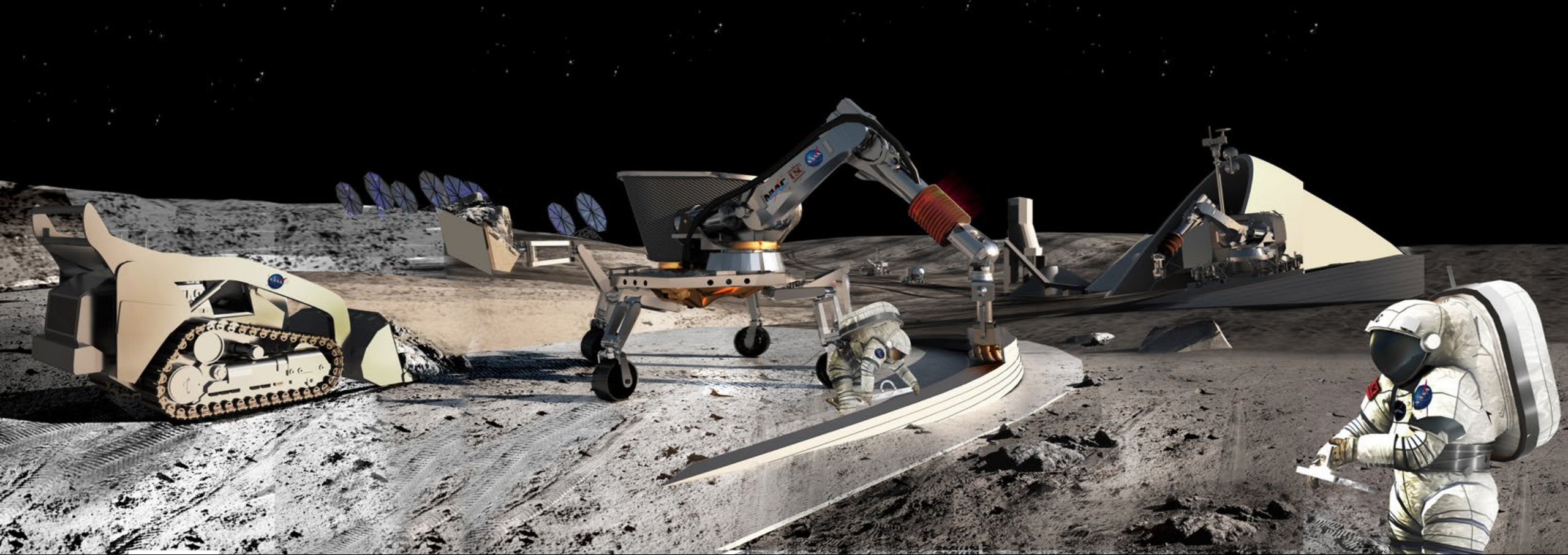
# In-Situ Resource Utilization



Artemis ISRU systems to demonstrate resource mapping and a scalable capability to extract and use lunar-based resources

- **Resource Mapping/Estimation:** Enable global and detailed local and subsurface mapping of lunar resources and terrain, especially for water in permanently shadowed craters, for science, future exploration, and commercial use
- **Oxygen Extraction:** Enable extraction and production of oxygen from lunar regolith to provide 10's of metric tons per year, for up to 5 years with little human involvement and maintenance, for reusable surface and ascent/descent transportation.
- **Water Mining:** Enable cislunar commercial markets through extraction of water resources to provide 100's of metric tons of propellant per year for reusable landers and cislunar transportation systems
- **Lunar Surface Construction:** Building roads, launch/landing pads, dust free zones, foundations, blast protection, radiation shielding, shade structures, unpressurized shelters, and even pressurized habitats.





# What is ISRU?

- “Living off the Land”
- Hardware & operations that harness and utilize ‘in-situ’ resources to create products and services for robotic and human exploration
  - Resource Assessment (Prospecting)
  - Resource Acquisition
  - Resource Processing/Consumable Production
  - In-Situ Manufacturing
  - In-Situ Construction
  - In-Situ Energy

# LIVE: Develop exploration technologies and enable a vibrant space economy with supporting utilities and commodities

Scalable ISRU production/utilization capabilities including sustainable commodities\* on the lunar & Mars surface

**Slide Credit:** Jerry Sanders, Julie Kleinhenz and Diane Linne, NASA ISRU Presentation to COSPAR July 2022

## COMMERCIAL SCALE WATER, OXYGEN, METALS & COMMODITY PRODUCTION



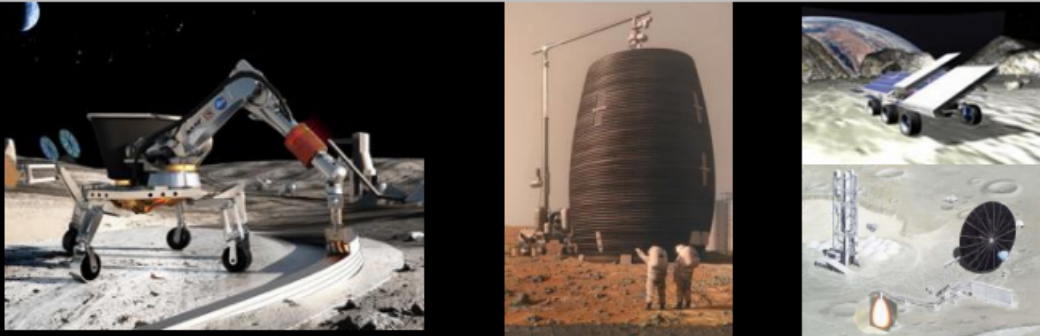
- Lunar resources mapped at meter scale for commercial mining
- Initial 10's of metric tons of commodities per year
- Scalable to 100's to 1000's metric tons of commodities per year

## COMMODITIES FOR HABITATS & FOOD PRODUCTION



- Water, fertilizers, carbon dioxide, and other crop growth support
- Crop production habitats and processing systems
- Consumables for life support, EVAs, and crew rovers/habitats for growing human space activities

## IN SITU DERIVED FEEDSTOCK FOR CONSTRUCTION, MANUFACTURING, & ENERGY



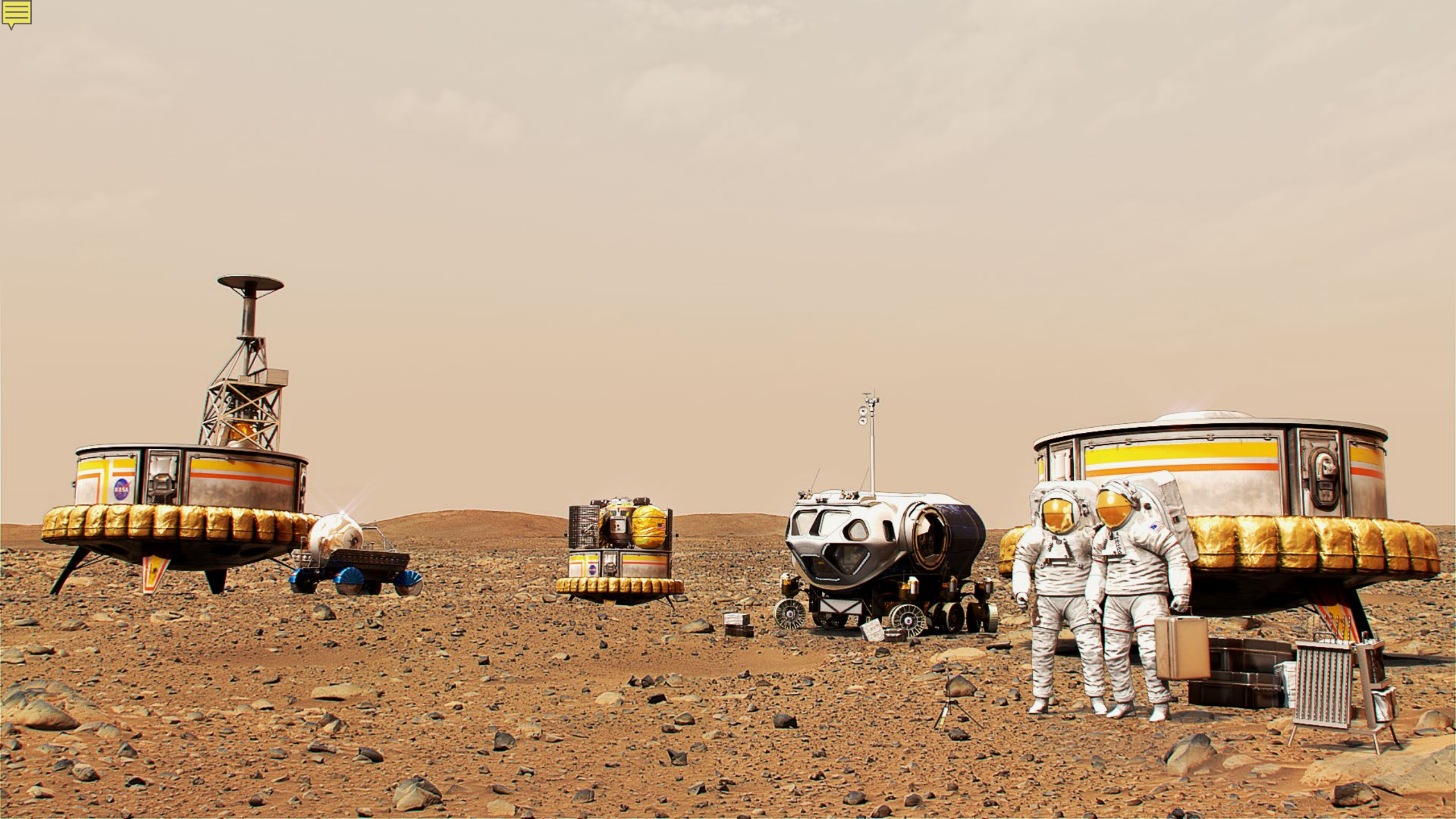
- Initial goal of simple landing pads and protective structures
- 100's to 1000's metric tons of regolith-based feedstock for construction projects
- 10's to 100's metric tons of metals, plastics, and binders
- Elements and materials for multi-megawatts of energy generation and storage
- Recycle, repurpose, and reuse manufacturing and construction materials & waste

## COMMODITIES FOR COMMERCIAL REUSABLE IN-SPACE AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND DEPOTS



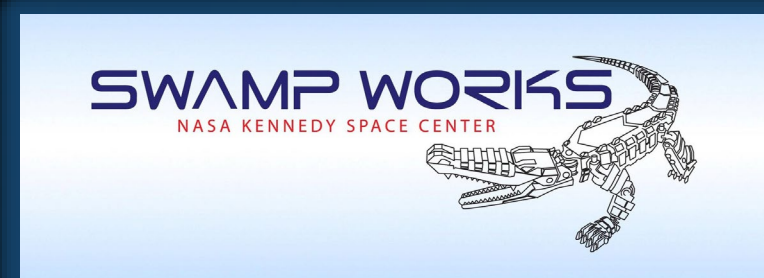
- Initially 30 to 60 metric tons per lander mission
- 100's to 1000's metric tons per year of for Cis-lunar Space
- 100's metric tons per year for human Mars transportation





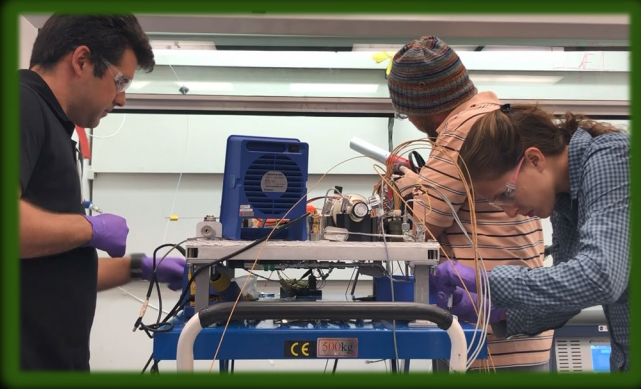


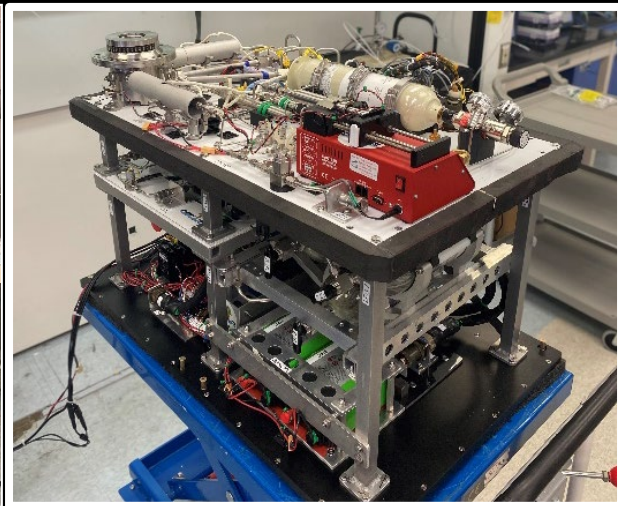
# Exploration Systems and Development Office



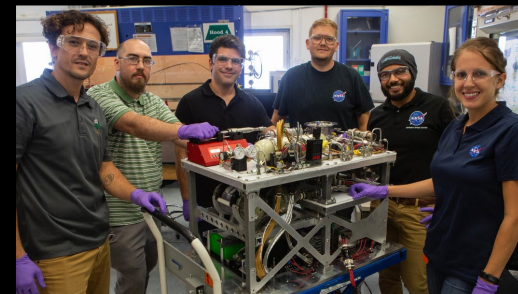


# Exploration Systems and Development Office





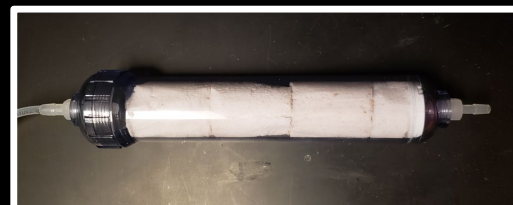
HEOMD AES – Logistics Reduction Trash Venting. Left: Plasma gasification/pyrolysis reactor; Right: OSCAR combustion/gasification/incineration Trash to Gas test rig.



STMD, ECI and Flight Opportunities Orbital Syngas/ Commodity Augmentation Reactor (OSCAR): Waste processing in microgravity suborbital payload.



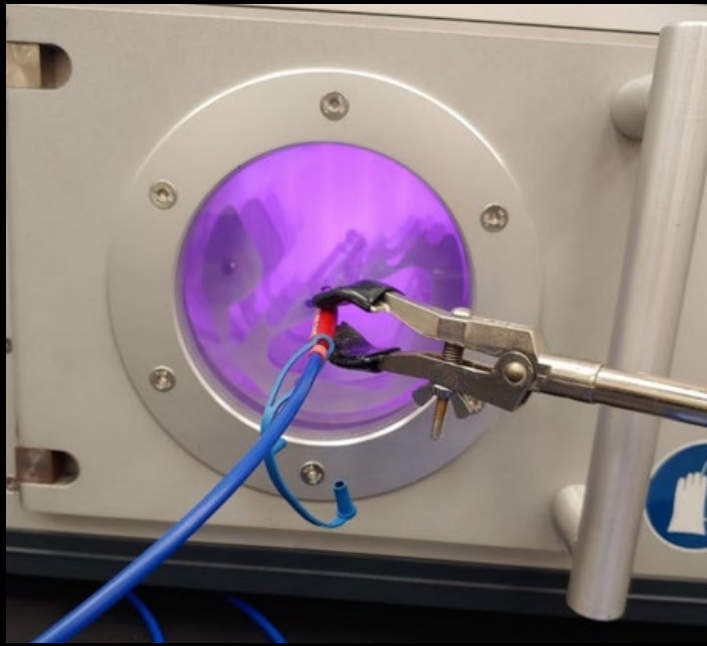
STMD CIF : CO<sub>2</sub> Plasma Gasification



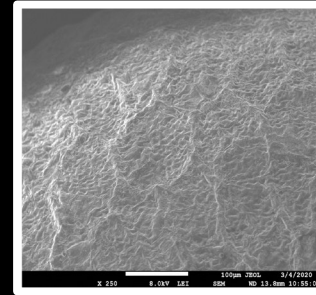
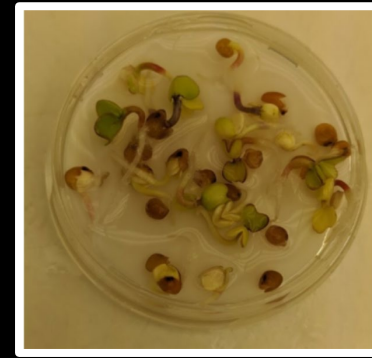
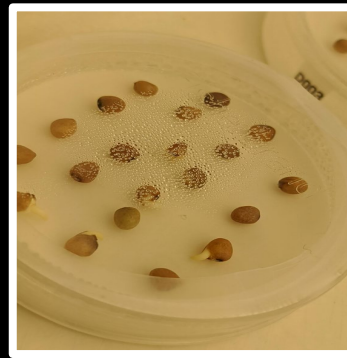
HEOMD AES - Water Silver Biocide, Passive silver ion releasing composite foam



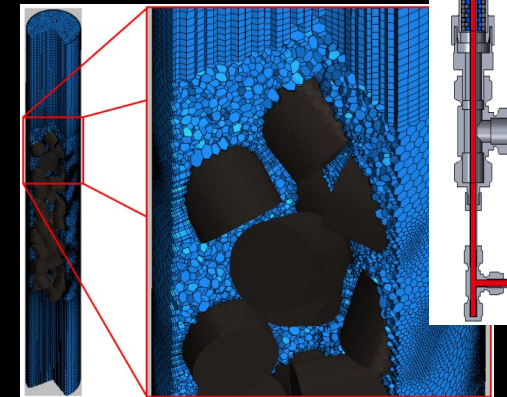
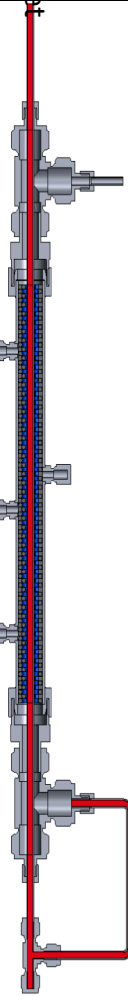
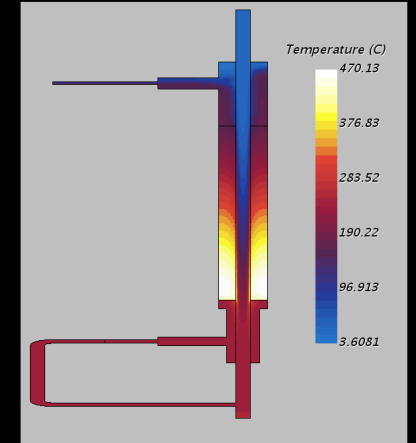
STMD Plasma Precision Cleaning Robot



Hydrogen Plasma Reduction of Lunar Regolith for Oxygen Liberation



Plasma Agriculture Sanitization, IR&TD



Computational Modeling



Relevant Environment Testing



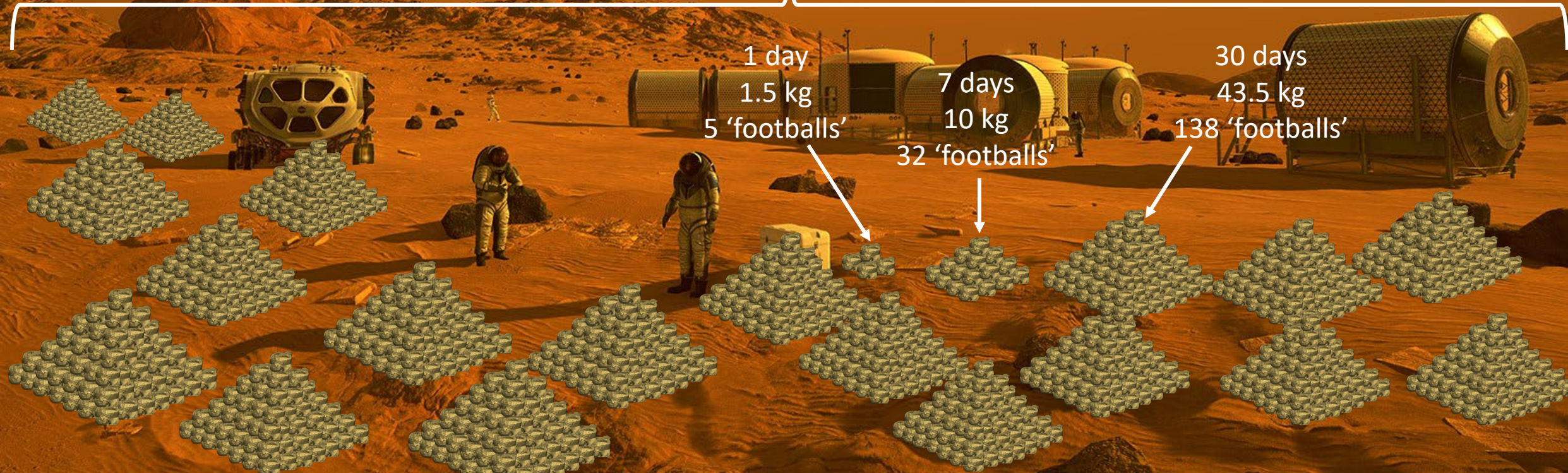
Payload Qualification Testing



Artist's Illustration

# NASA's Trash Strategy...

550 days (Mars mission)  
800 kg of waste  
2536 'footballs'





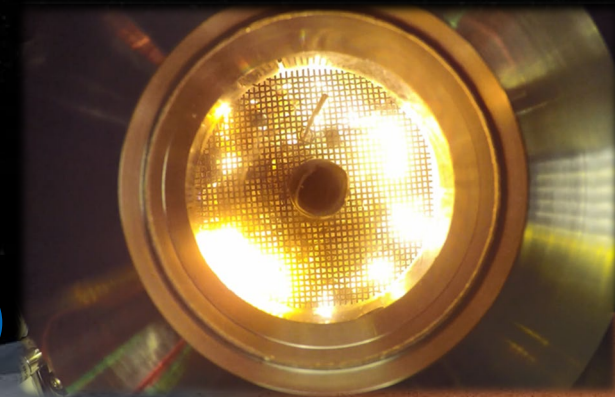
Keep



Throw out  
(Mass Jettison)



Throw out  
(Mass Venting)





6.4 kg/day of trash  
Crew of 4



Toothpaste



Nitrile  
Gloves



Shampoo



Clothing



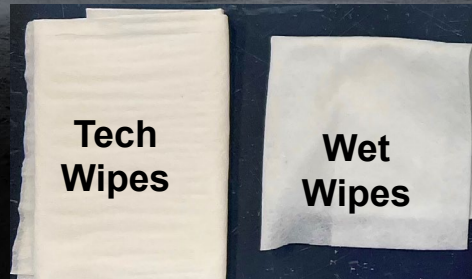
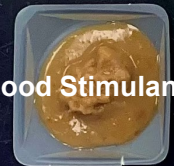
Toilet Paper



Fecal Stimulant



Food Stimulant



Tech  
Wipes

Wet  
Wipes



Food  
Packaging



6.4 kg/day of trash  
Crew of 4



# Trash Feedstock Simulant Recipes

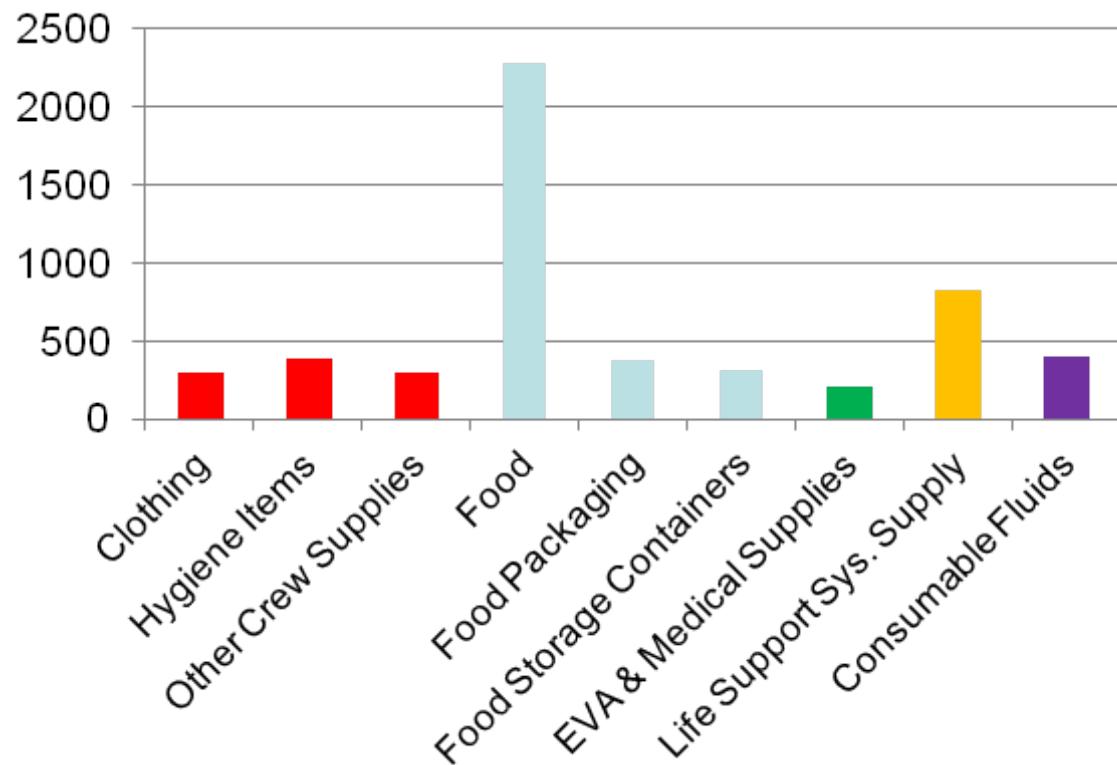


Component of OWS	OWS (Mass %)	Component of HFWS	HFWS (Mass %)
Clothing/Cotton	17.9	Urine Brine	21.3
Food Packaging (FP)	13.4	Polyethylene sheet	16.2
FP Overwrap	13.4	Clothing/Cotton	12.6
Hygiene towels	9.5	Fecal Simulant	11.2
Tech Wipes	3.6	Food Simulant	8.9
Toilet Paper	3.6	Hand/face wipes	5.5
Nitrile Gloves	1.6	Tissues	4.9
Fecal Simulant	13.4	Hygiene towels	4.8
Hand/face Wipes	10.8	Nylon sheet	4.6
Toothpaste	1.2	Shampoo	2.4
Shampoo	1.2	Aluminum foil	2.3
Food Simulant	10.6	Nitrile gloves	2.1
Fecal Simulant	11.2	Toothpaste	1.2
		Paper	0.6
		Maximum absorbency garments (MAG)	0.5
		Disinfecting wipes	0.4
		Duct tape	0.4

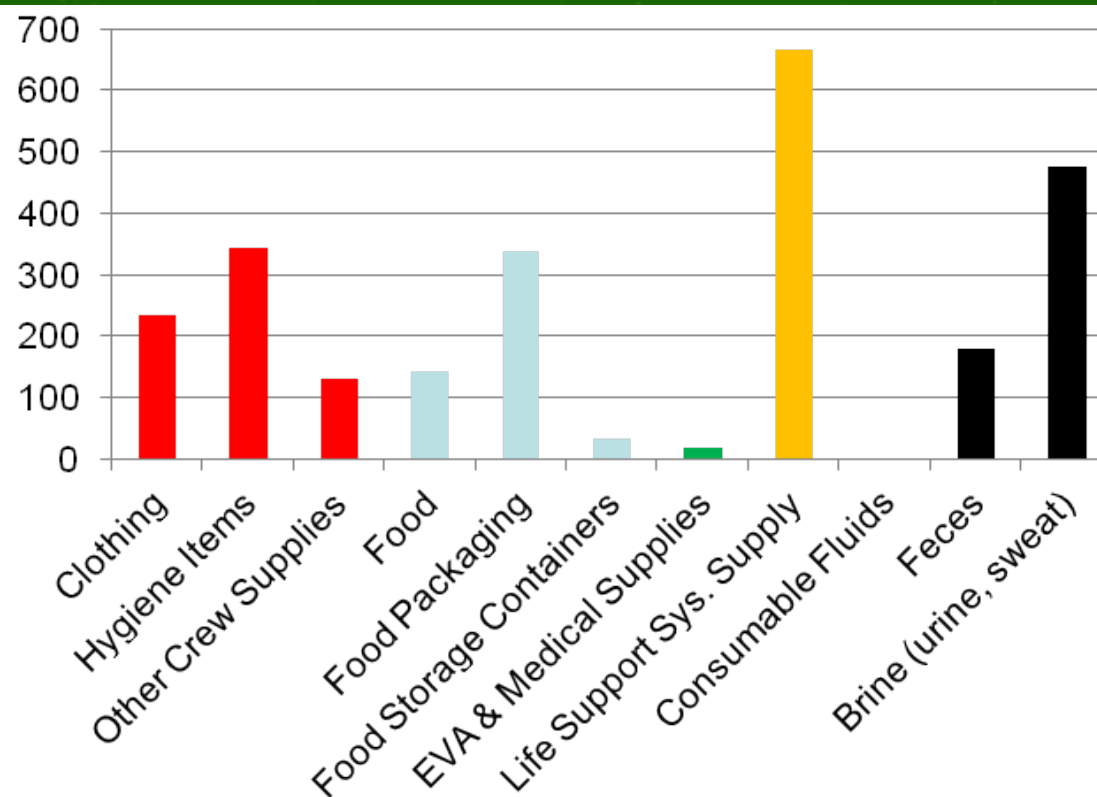
# Logistics Waste Model – 1 year, 4 people



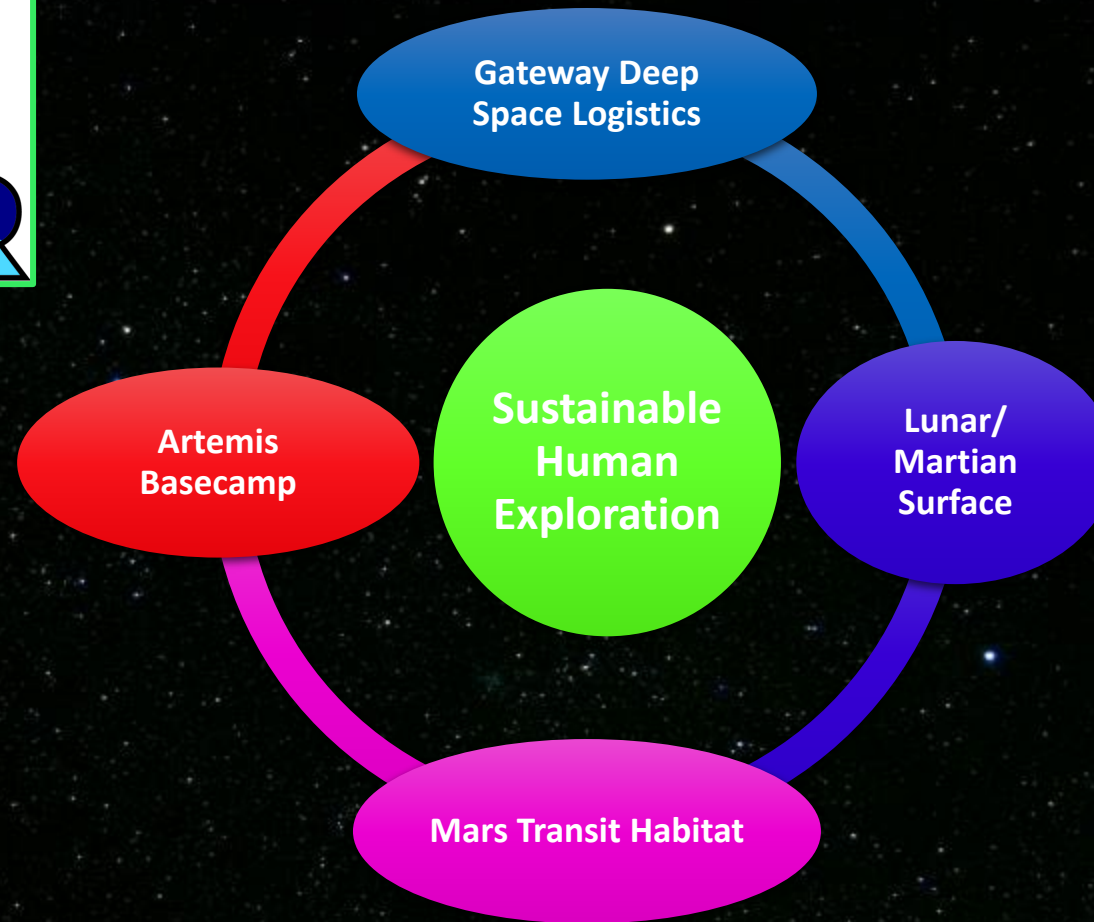
## Launch Mass (kg)



## Waste Mass (kg)



# NASA Sustainable Trash Processing



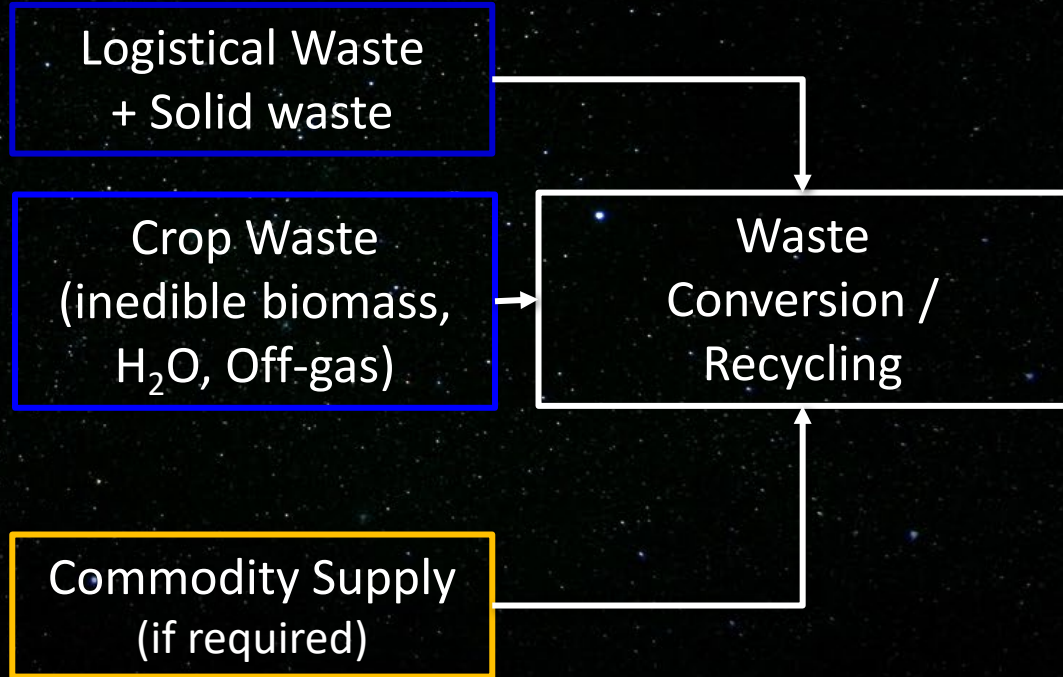
This work lays the framework for *earnest spaceflight sustainability* within next generation of human spaceflight & exploration.

# Moon 2 Mars Objectives

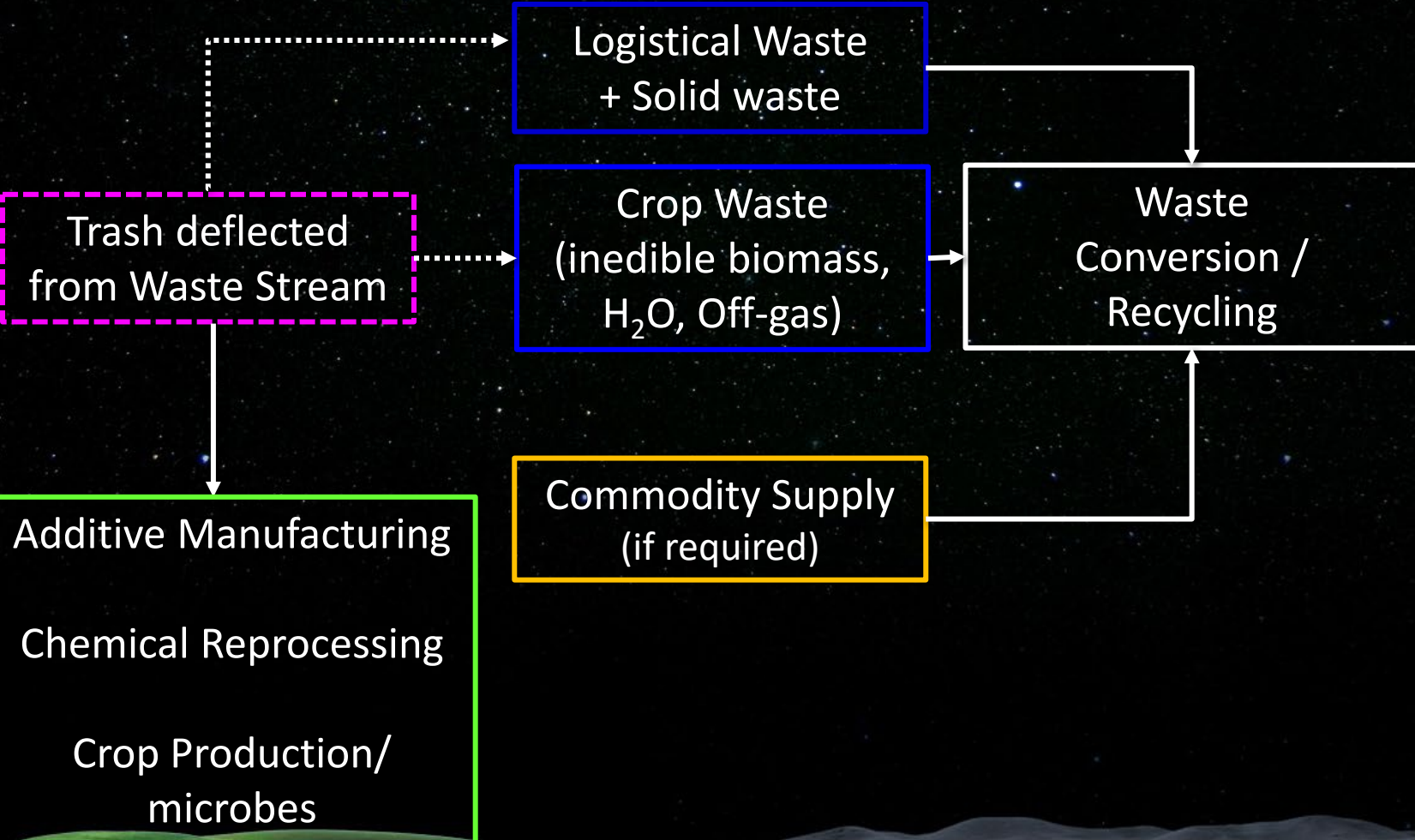
- **Trash Conversion/ Trash-to-Gas** considers NASA's sustainable architecture for recycling/reuse of on-orbit M2M Objectives:
  - **OP-12:** Establish procedures and systems that will minimize the disturbance to the local environment, maximize the resources available to future explorers, and allow for reuse/recycling of material transported from Earth (and from the lunar surface in the case of Mars) to be used during exploration.
  - **RT-5:** Maintainability and Reuse: when practical, design systems for maintainability, reuse, and/or recycling to support the long-term sustainability of operations and increase Earth independence.
  - **RT-6:** Responsible Use: Conduct all activities for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes consistent with international obligations, and principles for responsible behavior in space.



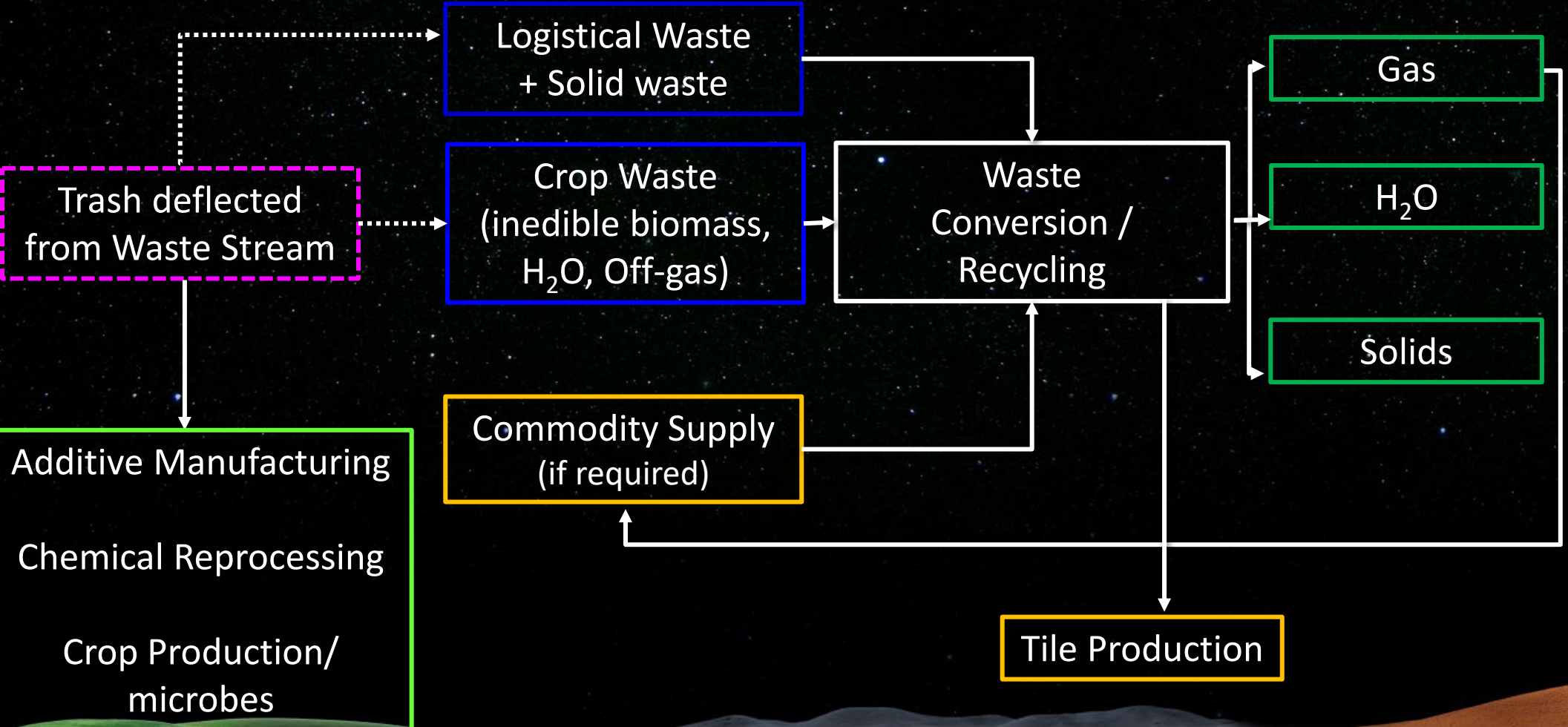
# Concept: Trash Processing & Reuse Systems / Trash-to-Gas+



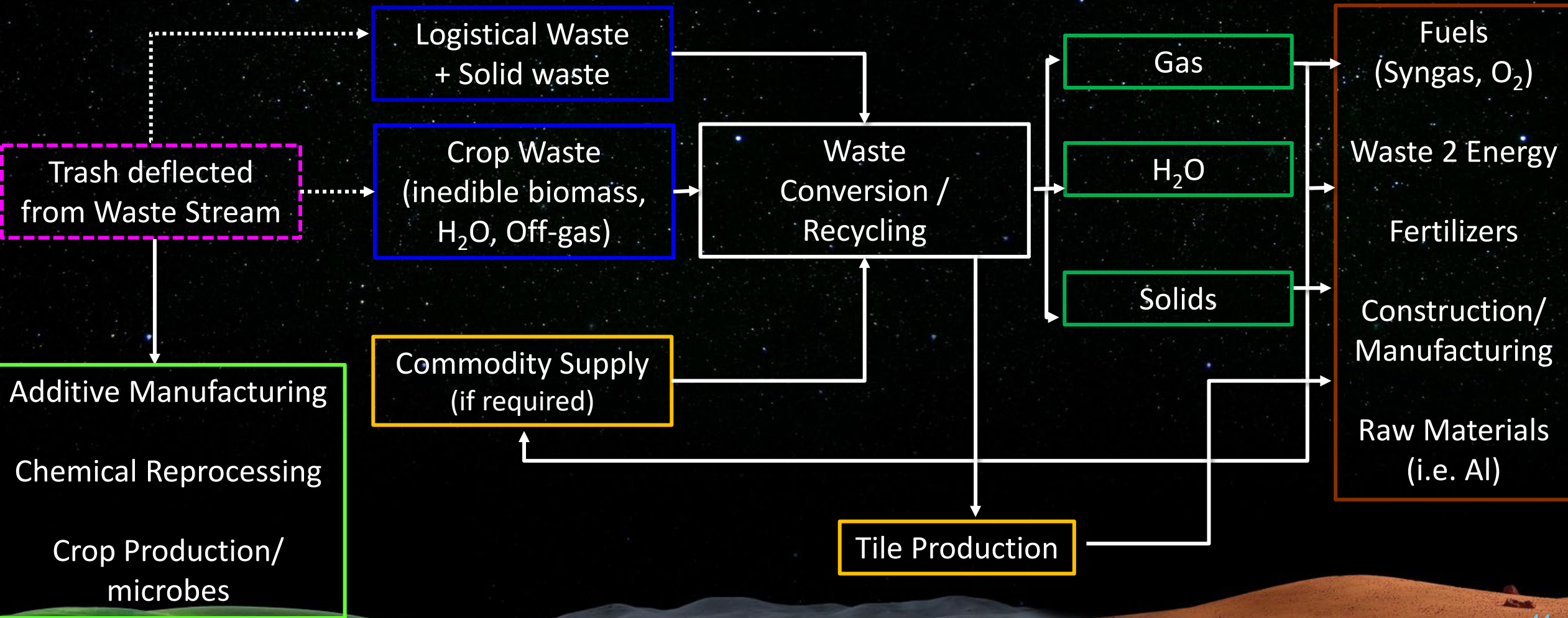
# Concept: Trash Processing & Reuse Systems / Trash-to-Gas+

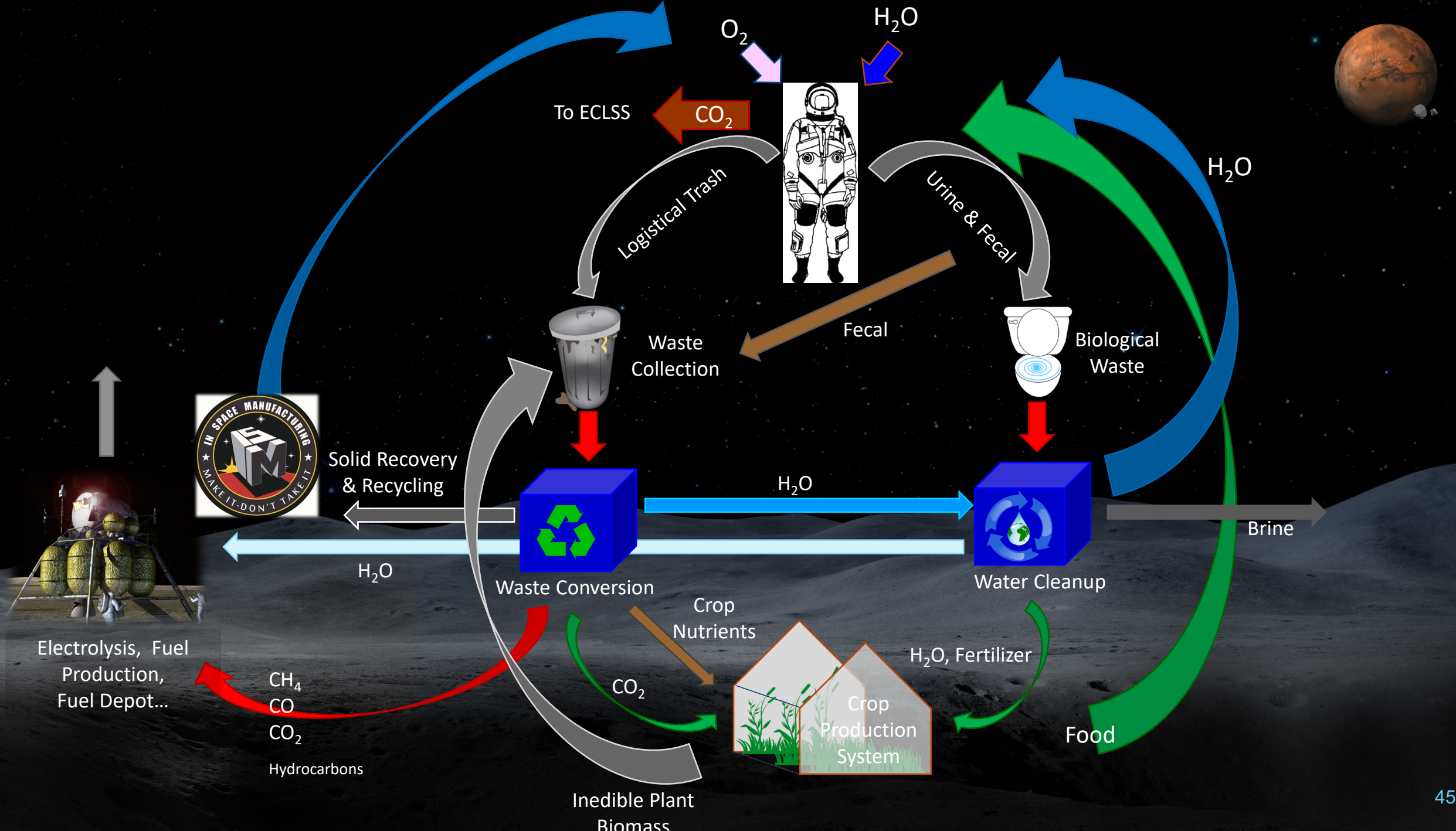


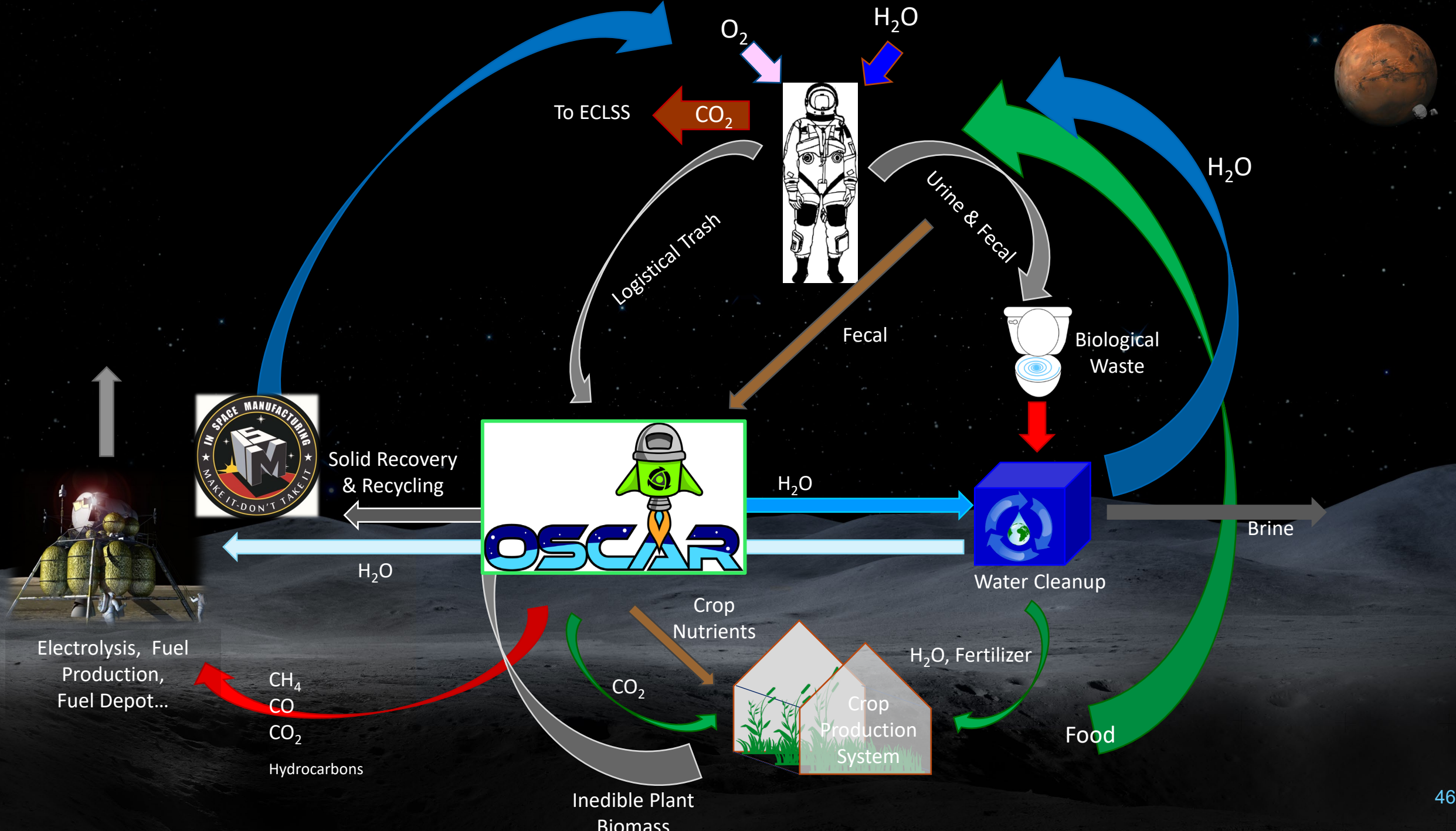
# Concept: Trash Processing & Reuse Systems / Trash-to-Gas+



# Concept: Trash Processing & Reuse Systems / Trash-to-Gas+

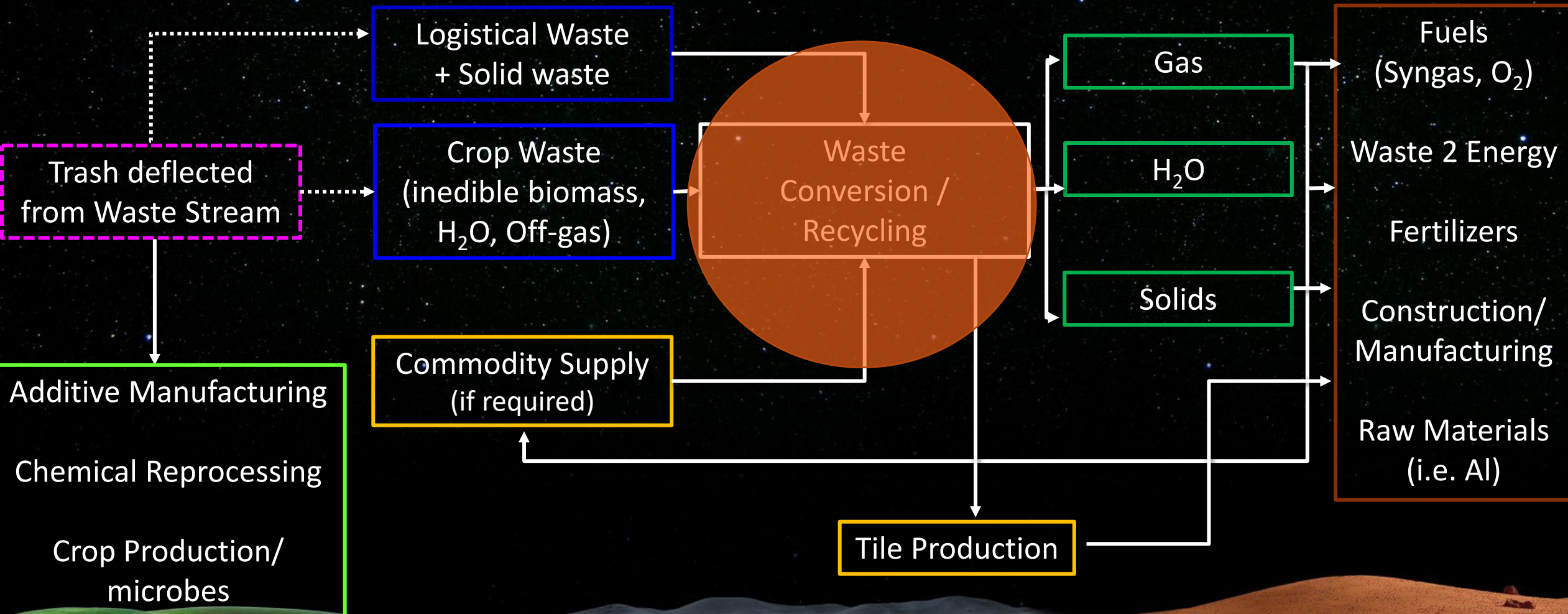






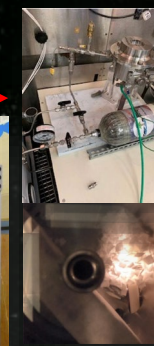
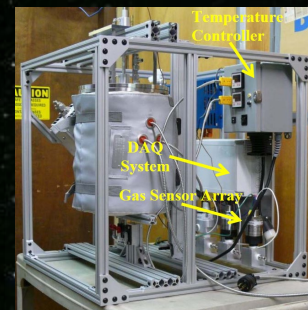
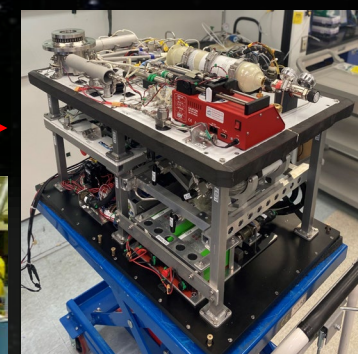
# Concept: Trash Processing & Reuse Systems / Trash-to-Gas+

Have flown sub-scale trash conversion unit. Other units need fundamental research for advancing the circular process.

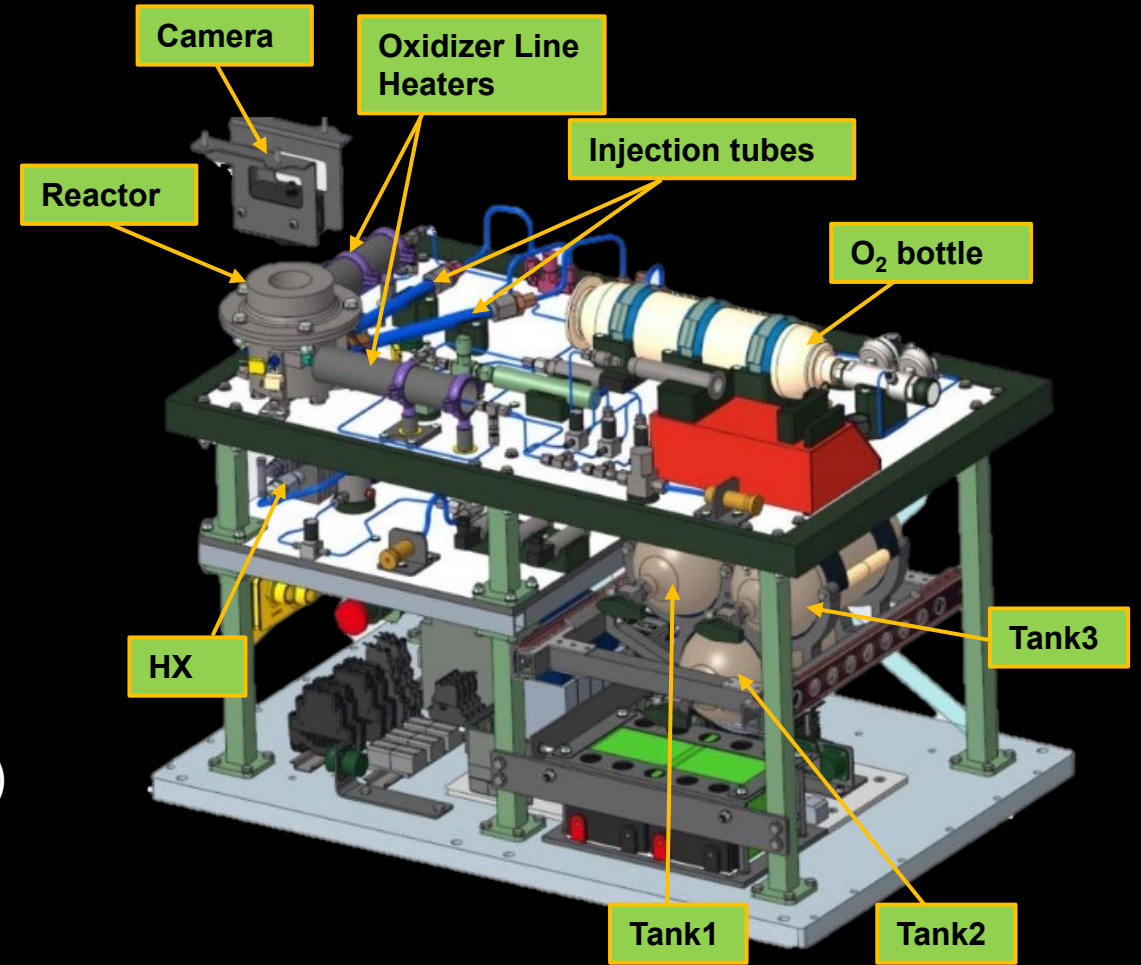
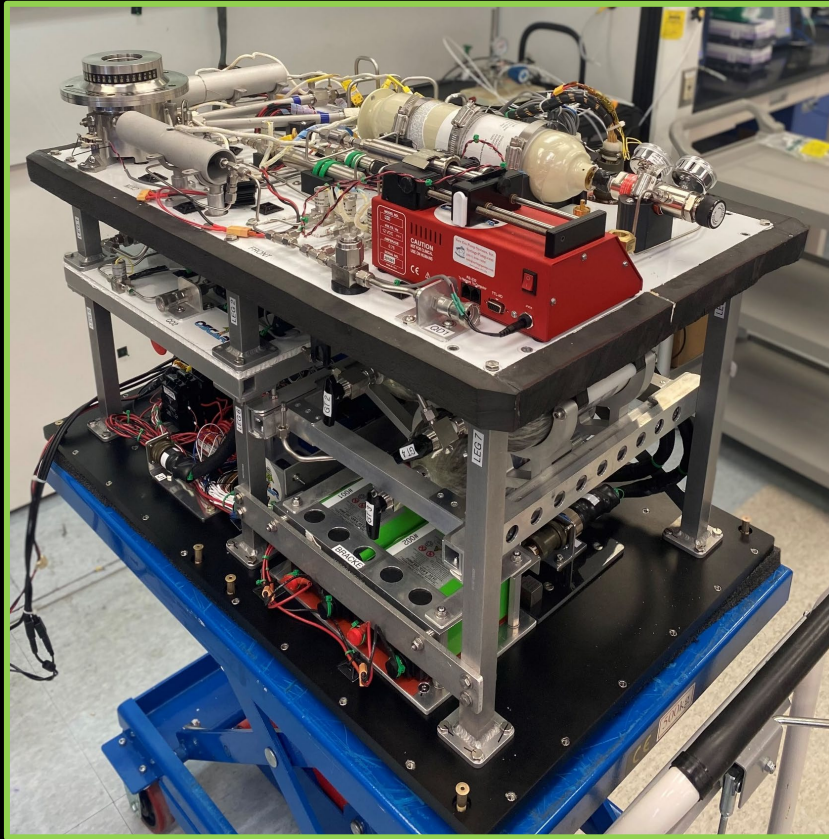


# Evaluated Trash-to-Gas Systems evaluated in trade studies from 2020+ (does not include all from 2011-2019)

- Incineration/gasification (**Inc-Gas**; NASA/KSC; Anthony and Hintze, *44th ICES*, 2014, 016).
- Plasma gasification (**Plas-Gas**; NASA/KSC).
- Advanced Organic Waste Gasifier (**AOWG**; Pioneer Astronautics, Inc.).
- Orbital Syngas Commodity Augmentation Reactor (**OSCAR**; NASA/KSC).
- Microwave Assisted Pyrolysis (**MAP**; Advanced Fuel Research Corporation).
- Plasma Pyrolysis (**Plas-Pyro**; NASA/KSC).
- Torrefaction Processing Unit (**TPU**; Advanced Fuel Research Corporation).



# Trash Processing & Reuse Systems / Trash-to-Gas / OSCAR



**OSCAR Sub-scale System for Suborbital Flight**

- “OSCAR” (Orbital Syngas Commodity Augmentation reactor) was for suborbital flight subscale demonstration only.
  - (15 min flight time with 3 minutes microgravity).
- Sub-scale: 10g processed in 3 minutes.
- 0.5 L reactor w/trash injection tubes
- 100% O<sub>2</sub> feed gas at 1 SLPM
- 308 kPa / 45 PSIG

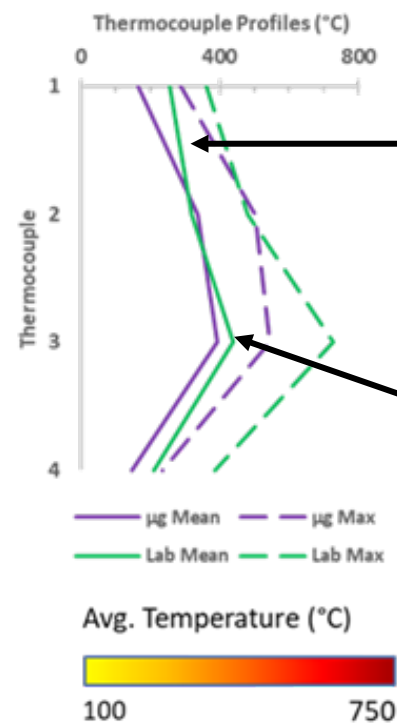
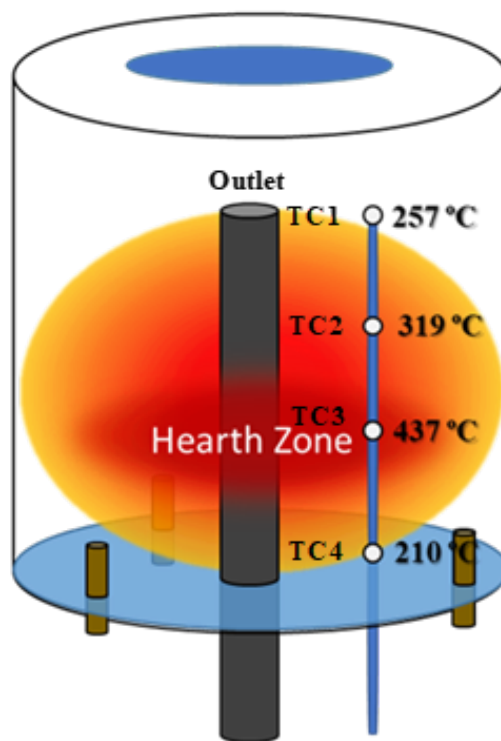
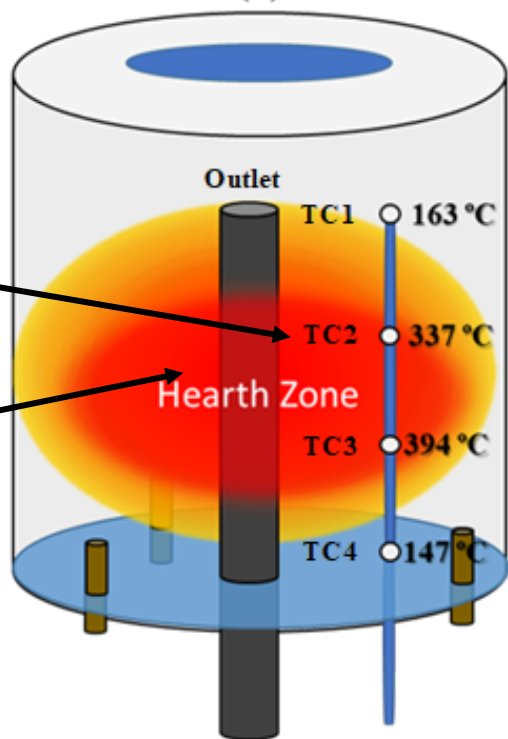
Suborbital Flight 2,  $\mu\text{g}$   
(A)

Post-Flight Ground Test  
(B)

(C)

Warmer TC2 due to torch behavior

Trash floating



More efficient heat transfer in lab

Lab temperatures warmer overall

# Trash-to-Gas systems evaluated Mars transit propellant requirements



TtG System Name, Year of Operational Report	Thermal Process Technology	Total Vehicle Mass	Total Mass Reduction
		(kg)	(kg)
Baseline (Stowage Model)	n.a.	309,296	--
NASA Incinerator/Gasifier (Inc-Gas), 2014 [23]	Incineration and Gasification	303,074	6,222
NASA Plasma Gasification [30] (Plas-Gas), 2019	Plasma-Induced Incineration and Gasification	303,145	6,151
Advanced Organic Waste Gasifier (AOWG), Pioneer Astronautics, Inc. (developed under NASA SBIR.) 2020 [23]	Oxygen-Enhanced Steam Reforming	303,391	5,905
Orbital Syngas Commodity Augmentation Reactor (OSCAR), 2021 [28], [48]	Oxygen-Enriched Combustion	303,141	6,155
Microwave Assisted Pyrolysis (MAP), (Advanced Fuel Research (AFR) Corporation (developed under NASA SBIR)) 2014 [23]	Microwave-Induced Pyrolysis	303,430	5,866
(Plas-Pyro), 2020 [45]	Plasma-Induced Pyrolysis	303,511	5,785
Torrefaction Processing Unit, (TPU), AFR Corporation (NASA SBIR), 2019 [40]	Torrefaction	305,597	3,699

J. A. Olson, P. Chai, D. Rinderknecht, and A. J. Meier, “A Comparison of Propellant Requirements for Crewed Mars Missions Incorporating Different Waste Processing Technologies,” presented at the ASCEND, Las Vegas, Nevada & Virtual, 2021. doi: 10.2514/6.2021-4080.

# Resources Available for Future Mission Scenarios in Trash



## 850-Day Mars Mission

- Mission duration: 850 days
- Mission location: Mars
- Crew size: 4
- Trash production rate: 1.607 kg/CM-d
- Trash composition: OSCAR-FS

## 30-Day Lunar Mission

- Mission duration: 30 days
- Mission location: Moon
- Crew size: 4
- Trash production rate: 1.607 kg/CM-d
- Trash composition: OSCAR-FS

Resources Available in (Crew Consumable) Waste Stream (kg)								
Mission Type	Trash Total	Oxygen	Water	Polyethylene	Polyester	Polypropylene	Nylon	Aluminum
850-Day Mars	5463.8	1148.9	628.3	968.7	535.4	299.6	916.6	173.6
30-Day Moon	192.8	40.6	22.2	34.2	18.9	10.6	32.4	6.1



## Innovations/Future Focus:

- Large scale demonstrations
- Integration into crop/LSS
- Full Scale OSCAR/ Trash-to-Gas Demonstration
  - OSCAR-Full Scale
  - crew of 4 on 1 year mission
  - ~6.5 kg/day for 30 days demo
  - Large reactor to accept 1 kg / batch of trash.
- Crop infusion with solids/ash nutrient tuning
- Water, ash and gas recovery
- Plasma VOC mitigation
- High throughput plasma gasification system.
- CHAPEA Mars Analog Habitat trash and data collection
- Alternative material selection for logistics packaging
- Additive manufacturing with polymers or recovered metals from logistics materials/packaging

Pending Publication ICES-2024-288  
 “Thermal Degradation and Rapid Composting  
 of Inedible Biomass and Logistical Waste for  
 Crop Production and Resource Recovery in  
 Space Applications”





THANK YOU



**BACKUP SLIDES**



# Other papers for data on waste processing for space applications:

1. McKinley, M. K., Ewert, M. K., Borrego, M. A., Orndoff, E., Fink, P., Sepka, S., Richardson, J., and Meier, A. **Advancements in Logistics Reduction for Exploration Missions.** Presented at the 52nd International Conference on Environmental Systems, Calgary, Canada, 2023.
2. Olson, J. A., Chai, P., Rinderknecht, D., and Meier, A. J. **A Comparison of Propellant Requirements for Crewed Mars Missions Incorporating Different Waste Processing Technologies.** Presented at the ASCEND, Las Vegas, Nevada & Virtual, 2021.
3. Olson, J., Rinderknecht, D., Essumang, D., Kruger, M., Golman, C., Norvell, A., and Meier, A. **A Comparison of Potential Trash-to-Gas Waste Processing Systems for Long-Term Crewed Spaceflight.** Presented at the 50th International Conference on Environmental Systems, 2021.
4. Chen, T., et al. **Benefits of Trash-to-Gas versus Jettison of Waste via Trash-Lock for Mars Transit.** Presented at the 52nd International Conference on Environmental Systems, Calgary, Canada, 2023.
5. Linne, D. L., Palaszewski, B. A., Gokoglu, S. A., Balasubramaniam, B., Hegde, U. G., and Gallo, C. **Waste Management Options for Long-Duration Space Missions: When to Reject, Reuse, or Recycle.** Presented at the 7th Symposium on Space Resource Utilization, AIAA SciTech Forum, 2014.
6. Shah, M. G., Pitts, R. P., Benson, M. A., and Gleeson, J. R. **Investigating Waste Preparation Methods for Trash-to-Gas Technologies.** Presented at the 51st International Conference on Environmental Systems, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, 2022.
7. Meier, A., Rinderknecht, D., Olson, J., Shah, M., Toro Medina, J., Pitts, R., Carro, R., Gleeson, J., Hochstadt, J., Forrester, E., Kruger, M., and Essumang, D. **“Pioneering the Approach to Understand a Trash-to-Gas Experiment in a Microgravity Environment.”** *Gravitational and Space Research*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2021, pp. 68–85. <https://doi.org/10.2478/gsr-2021-0006>.

# Expected Trash Production Rate for Exploration

6.4 kg/day of trash  
Crew of 4

## TOP DOWN

Estimate production rates of each high-level waste category (refer to “Logistics Rates and Assumptions for Future Human Spaceflight Beyond LEO” (AIAA Control ID: 3907708))

<i>Waste Category</i>	<i>Production Rate (kg*CM<sup>-1</sup> *day<sup>-1</sup>)</i>
Food Packaging and Adhered Food	0.56
Waste & Hygiene Consumables	0.30
Wipes and Gloves	0.20
Fecal/Urine Collection Bags	0.17
Healthcare Consumables	0.09
Hygiene Kits	f(crew size, duration)*
Used Clothing	f(crew size, duration)*
Used Towels	f(crew size, duration)*

**Notes:**

\* Hygiene kits, clothing, and towel waste productions vary per item and are a function of crew size and mission duration. Refer to the ELPG for discrete production rates for each item type.

# Trash to Supply Gas – General Sys. Analysis

**Waste Volume Reduction: 19 m<sup>3</sup>**

Equivalent to pressurized volume of one Orion Spacecraft.

**Enough delta-V for yearly station keeping at Earth-Moon Lagrange point.**

**Production:**

~800 kg of O<sub>2</sub>, ~900 kg of H<sub>2</sub>O, 1,100 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>

~800 to 1500 kg of CH<sub>4</sub>/yr

**Lunar:**

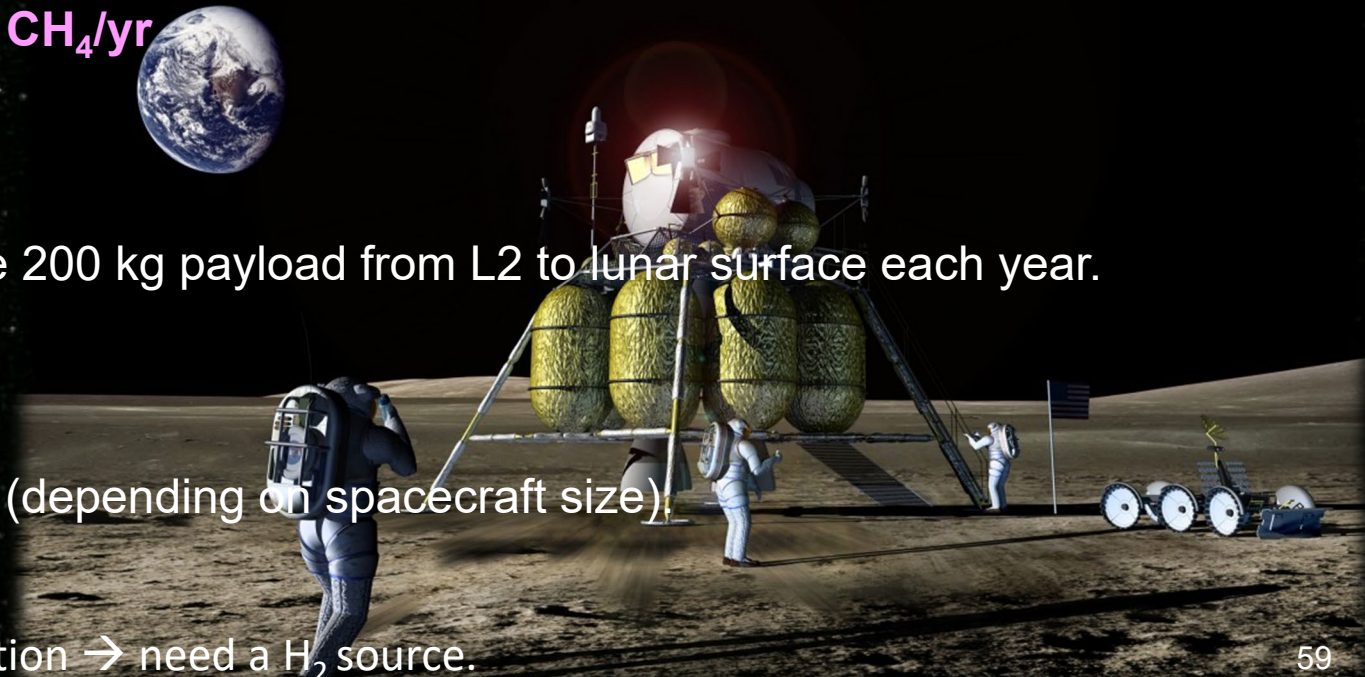
Enough to send one 200 kg payload from L2 to lunar surface each year.

**Mars:**

Course Corrections (depending on spacecraft size).

C is limiting reagent.

If CO<sub>2</sub> used for CH<sub>4</sub> production → need a H<sub>2</sub> source.



# ISRU Challenges



- Landing site
- Maximize performance / Reduce mass
- Reliability
- Thermal management
- Extreme environments (dust, radiation, temperature, pressure)
- Microgravity environment
- Long duration operation, autonomy, failure recovery
- Interfaces
- Planetary protection

# Logistics Reduction Mission Impacts - Volume

