



OPEN LUNAR FOUNDATION

Introduction

Settlements of new lands have always demonstrated risks and opportunities. From the first migrations across the Bering Strait to modern colonialism and the new terrains of cyberspace, all have encountered unforeseen ethical, institutional and operational questions, and provide hard won insights around precedent, impact and representation. Today we have a depth and breadth of accessible historical records unfathomable to those who settled new worlds in the past. We like to think that social and technological progress have enabled us to say, “next time, we’ll do things differently.” Will we? In the world today we see some of history's greatest global challenges and opportunities. There is huge suffering as a result of mismanagement of the global environment and shared resources, and many people, companies and nations are using this moment to respond by orienting towards self-protection. At the same time, we have built more affordable, reliable, and capable technology than ever before, which has lifted the quality of life for many and made it clear that the sky is no longer the limit. There is a renaissance of attention toward the Moon as our closest neighbor. Investors and nation states alike are vying for various “firsts” as we prepare for a new generation beyond Earth. A wide diversity of actors are plotting their courses to establish themselves as key players in the lunar future over the next few years. If we delay the effort of making shared agreements and protocols, we run the risk of actors being hamstrung by changes after they have already invested in capacities or plans. Now is the time to explore how to align incentives across different actors, and establish norms and standards which help to accelerate progress by introducing stable foundations for the shared effort.

What Is Open Lunar Foundation

Open Lunar Foundation combines institutional research with intentionality and values to develop applied policy proposals and commercial partnerships for the Moon. As a non profit we can identify leverage points and take risks in service of peaceful and cooperative lunar futures. We see the Moon as part of a developing Earth–Moon system. We want to make sure that when we look up at the Moon, we all see something we're proud of. Open Lunar is more than an organisation, it's a scenario for the future. We aim to pull the arc of history towards a new picture of what's possible. We do this through the pursuit of intentional precedents around issues such as resource management, externalities, jurisdiction, transparency and access, and surface coordination protocols.



Our Values

Collaboration & Openness:

Work alongside one another in an open and participatory way. Foster a culture of non-competition and helpfulness.

Experimentation & Iteration:

Try things and learn through action. Iterate without dogma, and use scientific experimentation to test our thinking. Approach our work with a sense of discovery.

Pragmatism & Discipline:

Move forward through challenges by turning big ambitious visions into small achievable actions. Remain flexible to our situation and do not limit ourselves to one way of operating.

Intentionality & Integrity:

Prioritise our bigger purpose, strategise towards impact, navigate complexity thoughtfully and act responsibly

Our Strategy: Precedent setting through thoughtful action

Deliberate precedent setting is at the heart of our impact strategy: shaping our shift towards life on the Moon with conscious intentionality.

Advance Public Goods & Institutions

Sustained life on the Moon will need public infrastructure. Power, water, surface comms will be key utilities to support sustained presence. Many utilities do not require large lander capabilities. We can contribute as a nonprofit with innovative governance and institution design.

Increase Industry Collaboration

Practice inter-organizational cooperation and foster information sharing on mission design, payload designs, payload deployment, software & component development and cultivate appetite for a bigger open architecture.

Cocreate Values-driven Policy & Norms

Lead collaborative and participatory forethought in likely lunar policy challenges. Create regular fora and diverse plug-and-play solutions for philosophical conundrums which will become practical problems within the next 5 years of lunar activity.

We hypothesize that enacting policy, instrumentation and coordination mechanisms in concert will accelerate the uptake and incentivise behaviour change in the industry, towards a holistic new approach to lunar development.

Our policy work aims to co-create guidance and guardrails with foresight and thoughtfulness. We sense that actors investing in lunar pursuits want the ability to experiment, to explore, and to innovate before we collapse the wave function on institutions and regulation. We see this as a reason to proactively design responsive, experimental and iterative policy and coordination frameworks. We aim to address critical issues of resource allocation, rights, jurisdiction, and more, in a way that supports and accelerates lunar development priorities, while also contemplating ethics, benefit sharing, and positive evolution. Policy does not necessarily imply regulation; for us policy is a higher order effort of translating philosophical stances into examples of how actors could interact with each other, and with what boundaries, incentives and disincentives. We are pursuing approaches which utilise polycentricity, plurality, experimentation, accessibility and inclusiveness, as well as

accountability and clarity, while affirming the Outer Space Treaty. We look to historical analogs such as Internet governance protocols as an example of coordination mechanisms which have been mutually adopted and reinforced by the key stakeholders. Our policy program aims to build deep relationships across the actors in support of clear thinking about the many futures that might occur, and translate those into coordination mechanisms which can be adopted experimentally. We do this through research (fellowships, writing, events, and a partnership effort called Moon Dialogs (moondialogs.org)) and direct engagement with commercial lunar actors. Read more at openlunar.org/work

We Are in it Together

Overall we are working on a large scale vision for lunar public infrastructure and associated cooperative frameworks. We aim to complement and enhance the work of others. As much of our work as possible is to be shared in the public domain or in industry communities, embracing a culture of documentation to ensure our work lives longer than we do. Going to the Moon is hard, not just due to costs, but also due to changeable political, economic, and public concerns. Our aim is to be alongside others across times of volatility; reduce risks for all, involve each other in the learning curves, and think proactively together.

