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Rashid Rover ready to be launched today

Event pushed back thrice to allow more pre-flight checks of launch vehicle

DUBAI

BY ANGEL TESORERO

Senior Reporter

The UAE-made Rashid Rover is set for launch to the Moon today at 11.38am (UAE time) aboard a Japanese-made lunar lander that will be sent to space on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, US.

Dubai Media Office (DMO) tweeted vesterday: "Tomorrow, the UAE will launch to the Moon on a mission to be completed by the Rashid Rover. Watch the live coverage of the launch at 10:00 AM UAE time: http://mbrsc.ae/lunar. The mission will launch at 11:38 AM UAE time.'

The tweet was accompanied by a one-minute video that says Rashid Rover's launch is "a day to be carved in history. A day to mark the future".

10 GB of data

The launch of the lunar rover has been postponed thrice - on November 28, November 30 and December 1 - to "allow for additional pre-flight checks of the launch vehicle"

According to "Rashid Rover will provide about 10 gigabytes of recorded material, scientific data and new images to the global scientific community to study the Moon and provide fresh data for the development of new



DMO tweeted the launch and live coverage times yesterday. MBRSC will stream the event from 10am UAE time on http:// mbrsc.ae/lunar.

ABOUT THE ROVER

Designed and developed fully by an Emirati team, Rashid Rover stands 70cm tall, its length is 50cm and width 50cm. It weighs around 10kg with payload, but can climb over an obstacle up to 10cm tall and descend a 20-degree slope.

technologies that can be used to unravel the origins of the Earth and our solar system."

Rashid Rover will study the characteristics of lunar soil, the petrography and geology. It will also take photos of the moon's dust movement, surface plasma conditions, and the lunar regolith.

Arab pioneer

The success of the first Emirates Lunar Mission (ELM) will make the UAE the first Arab country and among the first countries in the world to land a spacecraft on the Moon, after the US, former Soviet Union and China.