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UAE joins lunar space station project

MULTINATIONAL VENTURE WILL SEE FIRST EMIRATI AND ARAB ASTRONAUT ON MOON MISSION

DUBAI

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The UAE will send the first Emirati and Arab astronaut into the lunar orbit as part of a new space project announced yesterday.

The UAE yesterday confirmed its participation in developing a module on Nasa's Lunar Gateway Station alongside the USA, Japan, Canada and the European Union. President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, attended the launch of the UAE's contributions to the historic Lunar Gateway. The Lunar Gateway will serve as humanity's first space station around the Moon.

The UAE President said during the event, which was held at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi, "The UAE's participation in this international project reflects our commitment to promoting partnerships with the world that contribute to the advancement of knowledge and progress for humanity."

Man's return to the Moon

Meanwhile, Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid said that as part of the nation's contribution, the UAE will develop a complete



Courtesy: Dubai Media Office

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum during the launch of the UAE's contributions to the historic Lunar Gateway project yesterday.

unit weighing 10 tonnes for the station. He added: "The lunar space station signifies humanity's return to the Moon and serves as a vital platform for launching missions to Mars." He noted that the work on this project will commence immediately, aligning with one of the most significant space ambitions of the coming decade.

Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, congratulated the UAE's leadership, people, and the Arab world on UAE's joining of the development of the Gateway Lunar Space Station.

"This project stands out as one of the most significant

international endeavours in space exploration in the 21st century. As an integral part of this project, the first Emirati and Arab astronaut will journey to the Moon upon the project's completion in 2030," Shaikh Hamdan said.

International collaboration
Additionally, Nasa Admin-

GATEWAY TO MOON



The **Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)** will be responsible for designing, developing, and operating the Emirates Airlock, which is the access point between the Gateway Lunar Space Station's pressurised cabin and the vacuum of space. Pictured is an artist's concept of the Gateway.



Get full coverage of the historic launch of the Lunar Gateway project

istrator Bill Nelson said: "Today, we announced the UAE's Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre will provide the Crew and Science Airlock for Nasa Gateway, humanity's first space station that will orbit the Moon. This is an exciting moment for international collaboration in the cosmos and the future of human space exploration."