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Danuri unveils lunar crater photos on 1st anniv. of launch

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Danuri or Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KLO) unveiled photos of the moon, including exotic craters, to mark the first anniversary of its launch from Earth on Aug. 5, 2022, to orbit the moon and conduct scientific research, the science ministry said Monday.

The Ministry of Science and ICT and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) held a ceremony to commemorate the first anniversary and released images of the moon taken by Danuri's cameras.

The photos include images of Hermite-A Crater, which is expected to contain large amounts of ice, taken by a high-resolution camera,



Seen is an image of the moon's Hermite-A crater taken by Danuri's high-resolution camera, July 9.

Courtesy of Ministry of Science and ICT

and Sverdrup Crater, a permanently shadowed area on the moon's South Pole, taken by the National Aero-

nautics and Space Administration's (NASA) ShadowCam equipment.

"Danuri was launched at 8:08 a.m., Friday, Aug. 5, last year from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, U.S., and finally succeeded in entering the lunar mission orbit on December 27, 2022, following a 145-day Earth-moon voyage," the ministry said.

"Korea became the world's seventh country to launch and operate a lunar orbiter and to realize various scientific and technological achievements, including the country's first photo of Earth and the moon and the world's first transmission of video and photo data through the space internet," the ministry added.

The country's first lunar orbiter

began its mission on Feb. 4 and has been conducting various assignments, including an exploration of the area around the lunar landing site, science research and space internet technology verification.

Danuri was scheduled to end its mission in January 2023, but the science ministry and KARI decided to extend the exploration period to December 2025, because the lunar orbiter consumed less fuel than expected while traveling from the Earth to the moon.

"In December, Danuri will send photos of lunar landing sites, a map of the five lunar elements and a map of the lunar radiation environment to celebrate the first anniversary of the beginning of its mission," the ministry said.