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COULD REWRITE PHYSICS AGAIN

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SPACEFLIGHT

TWO OF THESE ASTRONAUTS WILL BE THE FIRST HUMANS TO STEP ON THE MOON SINCE 1972

The crew of four will conduct the final test flight in NASA's Artemis programme towards the end of next year

On 3 April, NASA announced the names of the four astronauts who will crew Artemis 2, in preparation for the first Moon landing in over 50 years. The crew, formed of three NASA astronauts and one astronaut from the Canadian Space Agency, includes the first woman and the first African American to be assigned to a lunar mission.

Following the success of the uncrewed Artemis 1 mission in November 2022,

Artemis 2 is scheduled for launch in late 2024. Its crew will be formed of astronauts Christina Koch, Victor Glover and Reid Wiseman from NASA and Jeremy Hansen from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). The four astronauts will attempt to complete a lunar orbit aboard NASA's Orion capsule and then return to Earth.

If Artemis 2 is successful, Artemis 3 will launch as soon as 2025 and see two of these four astronauts spend a

week on the Moon while the other two remain in lunar orbit. After Artemis 3, NASA plans to launch crewed missions once a year and establish a permanent Moon-orbiting space station called Lunar Gateway as a stepping-stone towards future missions to Mars.

"I could not be prouder that these brave four will kickstart our journeys to the Moon and beyond," said NASA's director of flight operations Norm Knight. "They represent what an astronaut corps should be: highly capable and accomplished individuals with the skills and determination to take on any trial as a team."

The mission will see the astronauts lift off from Kennedy Space Center before an approximate travel time of four days to the Moon. The crew will then conduct a 'lunar flyby' – an orbit of the Moon without landing – before the four-day return journey. The mission will end with re-entry into Earth's atmosphere and recovery after splashdown into the Pacific Ocean.

THE ARTEMIS 2 CREW



REID WISEMAN (NASA)

Age: 47

Wiseman is a decorated naval aviator. He was selected for NASA's 20th astronaut class in 2009 and recently served as Chief of the Astronaut Office.

JEREMY HANSEN (CSA)

Age: 47

Hansen is the Canadian Space Agency's representative on the crew. He became an astronaut in 2009 but this will be his first spaceflight.

CHRISTINA KOCH (NASA)

Age: 44

Holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman after spending 328 days as flight engineer on the International Space Station.

VICTOR GLOVER (NASA)

Age: 46

Glover is a naval aviator who completed his first spaceflight in 2021. He has spent 168 days in orbit and participated in four spacewalks.