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UAE's lunar mission well on course

INDIGENOUS ROVER RASHID HAS CLEARED ALL TESTS AND WILL MARK THE FIRST ARAB MOON MISSION

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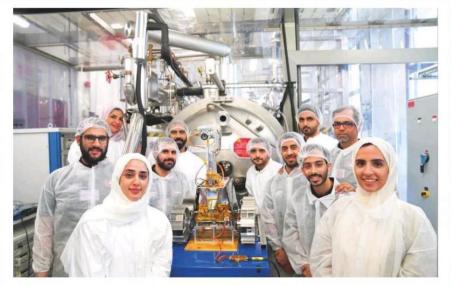
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN Senior Reporter

he UAE is on track to launch its lunar rover Rashid in about 30 days, the chief of the country's space agency revealed at Dubai Future Forum vesterday.

Speaking to Gulf News after a panel discussion at the forum, Salem Al Marri, Director General, Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, said the launch will happen between the scheduled window of November 9 and 15.

He confirmed that there is no change in the launch of Rashid Rover despite the damaging impact of Hurricane Ian in Florida. The launch is scheduled to take place from the Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. "Nothing has changed as of now," said Al Marri.

Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, has also tweeted to congratulate the team for their efforts in develping the Rashid Rover. "We thank the team at @MBRSpaceCentre for



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their efforts in developing the Rashid Rover, the UAE's first mission to the Moon. The rover has officially cleared all required tests, bringing the first Arab mission to the lunar surface one step closer. Our next stop: the Moon," he tweeted.

Meanwhile, the Mohammad bin Rashid Space Centre also confirmed that Rashid Rover, the UAE's first mission to the lunar surface, has officially cleared all required tests, pushing the mission one step closer to its launchpad rollout and liftoff. Rashid Rover is now ready for the final integration process with the launch vehicle before its launch window, MBRSC announced.

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Shaikh Hamdan Bin **Mohammad Bin Rashid** Al Maktoum

In a statement, Al Marri congratulated the Emirates Lunar Mission (ELM) team. "Congratulations to the ELM team that worked tirelessly to get Rashid Rover ready for the launch," he said.

Over the last four months, the rover has met a series of rigorous internal and external reviews designed to test the multitude of systems and subsystems powering the rover for the launch, cruise, and descent stages.