

## Commercial Lunar Payload Services

***Fully fund Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) contracts that leverage commercial providers to deliver science and technology to the Lunar surface, while strengthening the space economy.***

**Cost: \$486M, FY23**

It's been half a century since an American spacecraft last landed on the Moon. Since Apollo 17's landing on December 17, 1972, Russia, China, Japan, India, Israel, and the UAE have all sent landers to the Moon, and all have additional missions in development. Incredible changes in technology, launch costs, and access to capital have now put the lunar surface within the reach of commercial companies such as Astrobotic, Draper Laboratory, Intuitive Machines, and Lockheed Martin.

NASA is working with several **American companies to deliver science and technology to the lunar surface through the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative**. This initiative is modeled on the long-standing Launch Services Program, where NASA contracts with private launch providers for delivering payloads to space. CLPS contracts are indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contracts with a cumulative maximum contract value of \$2.6 billion through 2028. Thus far, five companies have received awards, and 15 companies are eligible for awards.

**CLPS missions are expected to reduce the cost of lunar exploration, accelerate the development of robotic exploration and prospecting, and promote commercial space industry growth.** As part of the Artemis program, commercial deliveries will perform science experiments, test technologies, and demonstrate capabilities to help NASA explore the Moon and prepare for human missions.

The first CLPS delivery in 2023 will be the first American lunar landing since 1972. However, unlike previous missions, these will *not* be government designed, owned, and operated spacecraft and the companies involved will be bearing some of the financial risks. The use of commercial providers for robotic lunar missions reduces cost and risk to NASA while leveraging privately developed technologies and missions.

It is important to note that landing on the Moon is challenging. The first few American missions missed the Moon entirely. There may be failures. But through failure, the companies involved and their customers learn a lesson that America learned fifty years ago and has largely forgotten. The result is a much more robust and sustainable national capability.

It is vital that Congress continue support of the Commercial Lunar Payload Services to help jump-start a low-cost, competitive, and commercial lunar cargo service industry.