

Human Landing System

Continue to fully fund both the Human Landing System (HLS), awarded to SpaceX, and the Sustaining Lunar Development contract that supports a second lunar lander option..

Cost: \$1.486B FY23 Enacted

Thanks to Congressional funding in FY23, **NASA is working with industry to develop two commercial Artemis lunar landers. These landing systems will provide astronaut transportation between the lunar-orbiting Gateway station and the surface of the Moon.** The program to procure these two commercially-developed landers is known as the Human Landing System (HLS) and HLS Sustaining Lunar Development. NASA's plan includes procuring demonstration landings from two providers, with options to purchase additional landings.

Initially, in early 2021, NASA selected only SpaceX under the original HLS competition. The single selection was controversial, but it was a choice driven by the available funding. Unlike the commercial resupply and commercial crew competitions, NASA did not receive sufficient funding to pay for multiple providers. Thankfully for FY23, Congress provided funding that allowed NASA to conduct a second competition known as HLS Sustaining Lunar Development. Experience learned from previous public-private partnerships shows the need for multiple providers. Without options and competition NASA could be locked into a single expensive and troubled provider. **The combined program of two landers will provide the best path to long-term, recurring human transportation services to the lunar surface.**

It is imperative for the success of Artemis, ensuring a swift return of American astronauts to the Moon, and sustaining human engagement on the lunar surface, that Congress continue to fully support the development of two human landing systems.