

Why is it important to reinstate a moon program? Aside from the inherent need of mankind to explore the universe, a moon program has the virtue of advancing basic science and promoting economic development. Think about it: the Apollo moon program of the nineteen sixties was one of the best spurs to the advancement of applied science. Useful products such as Teflon, Tupperware, microprocessors, GPS satellite guidance, and voice-controlled computer processing were developed during the original moon program. According to economist William Hartman, the value of these products exceeds 100 billion dollars (*Why We Must Go to the Moon Again*, 2016). As the 21st century progresses, there will be competition from China, Russia, and India to develop a new moon program. The economic benefits of space-based hardware will be considerable. Transportation, airplane technology, and atmospheric control will inevitably advance with the forward thrust of a moon program. The United States had better be at the forefront of these economic developments. It is essential that the USA be a part of this push for the simple reason that our nation's defenses will increasingly be dependent upon space – based rocket systems. Airforce General Matthew Ferry warned in congressional testimony last year that “The United States must be able to depend on the newest space – based defensive technology in order to be secure in a world challenged by the advancement of China.” Last but not least, we need a new moon program for the simple reason that the exploration of the universe is inherently fascinating; it is “in our blood” to wonder what is beyond the next horizon. For all of these reasons, we must push on to explore the universe. The moon is a great way to begin this journey.