
PRESS

Contact: Shuhei Akimoto
Email: pr@ispace-inc.com
Website: www.ispace-inc.com

March 2, 2017

Lunar Exploration Company ispace and Luxembourg Government Sign MoU to Co-operate Within the SpaceResources.lu Initiative

ispace becomes the first space resource exploration company in Luxembourg to be recognized for its focus on the Moon.

Luxembourg, March 2, 2017 — [ispace, inc.](http://ispace.inc), a Tokyo-based private lunar robotic exploration company and the Government of Luxembourg announced today that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation within the context of Luxembourg's SpaceResources.lu that aims to increase the commercial use of resources gathered from celestial bodies such as asteroids or from the moon.

Within this partnership, ispace intends to develop, through its European office based in Luxembourg, several key technical services including payload development and engineering integration and support. The Luxembourg Government will co-fund relevant research and development activities in this field, such as the ispace roving spectrometer project, which aims to bring an innovative mass spectrometer developed by the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST) to the surface of the moon to explore elemental and isotopic compositions of lunar ice and regolith.

The company ispace Europe SA will be hosted in Luxembourg City within the Paul Wurth InCub House which offers, in cooperation with the national business incubator Technoport®, a dedicated support program for innovative and technology-driven companies.

Luxembourg Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy, Étienne Schneider, stated: "The Luxembourg Government forges ahead with the SpaceResources.lu initiative. With ispace from Japan, we already welcome the third foreign company which chose our country as a European hub for developing highly advanced technologies and capabilities like robotics for mining resources in space. The partnership with an international renowned research organization and with a key player of the local innovation ecosystem offers ispace a promising starting position as a new actor in the Luxembourg space sector."

"It is a great honor to collaborate with Luxembourg and to be the first space resource company to be recognized for our focus on the Moon. We see the Moon as a strategic stepping stone to further spur human activity in space," said Takeshi Hakamada, CEO of ispace and the leader of team HAKUTO, one of the finalists of the Google Lunar XPRIZE. "With strong technological, legal, and financial support, we are convinced that Luxembourg is the best place for us to begin our European operations."

PRESS

"The development of technology solutions for the space sector is a key area of the Materials and Technology Department (MRT) of the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology," stated Prof. Jens Kreisel, Director of the MRT-LIST. "Within this strategy, the present collaboration with ispace is an excellent fit for us," adds Dr. Tom Wirtz, who heads the Advanced Instrumentation for Ion Nano-Analytics (AINA) group at LIST. "We have a mass spectrometry technology that is of major interest for space applications, and ispace has unique means to deploy this technology to space."

Georges Rassel, CEO of Paul Wurth, commented: "In the frame of our engineering activities beyond the traditional iron & steel industry, Paul Wurth is constantly looking for cooperating with young technology-driven companies. Given the increasing scarcity of mineral reserves, we have a natural interest in the development of innovative technical solutions allowing to explore resources, which today seem out of reach. We are therefore extremely delighted to welcome ispace inc. at our incubation program Paul Wurth InCub and we are looking forward to the challenges lying ahead.

On February 8, 2016, Luxembourg announced the SpaceResources.lu initiative to support the commercialization of space resource development. With this initiative, Luxembourg aims to become a European hub for space resource exploration and utilization.

###

About ispace, Inc.

ispace is a space robotics company focused on developing miniaturized technology to discover, map, and utilize resources in space. ispace designs, manufactures, and manages robotics for Team Hakuto, a front running Google Lunar XPRIZE team. ispace and Team Hakuto are sending the first privately developed micro-rover to the Moon in 2017 in an attempt to win the \$20M XPRIZE and conduct preliminary prospecting activities. For more information, please visit: <http://ispace-inc.com/>