

## **ispace Receives License to Conduct Business Activity on the Moon from Japanese Government**

### *First License Granted Under Japan's Space Resources Act*

TOKYO—November 8, 2022— ispace, inc. (ispace), a global lunar exploration company with its headquarters in Japan and regional offices in the United States and Europe, announced that it has received a license from the Japanese government to conduct business activity on the moon as part of its first lunar mission.

The approval, the first granted under Japan's recently enacted Act on the Promotion of Business Activities for the Exploration and Development of Space Resources (Space Resources Act), is effective as of November 4, 2022, in advance of ispace's planned launch set to occur on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Fla., as early as November 22, 2022.

"If ispace transfers ownership of lunar resources to NASA in accordance with its plan, it will be the first case in the world of commercial transactions of space resources on the Moon by a private operator," said Sanae Takaichi, Japan's Minister of State for Space Policy at a press conference announcing the granting of the license. "This will be a groundbreaking first step toward the establishment of commercial space exploration by private operators. As space development around the world becomes more prevalent, we hope Japan leads the international community by building a track record of resource utilization by private operators based on this law, in cooperation with the United States and other countries."

"We are very pleased to receive the first license under Japan's Space Resources Act, which grants us permission for Mission 1 operations. With this license, we will transfer ownership of the lunar regolith we expect to collect to NASA during our first mission," said Takeshi Hakamada, ispace's Founder and CEO. "Commercial space resource utilization is another step toward our goal of establishing the cislunar economy and will support NASA's goal of a long-term presence on the Moon. The Space Resources Act is a new system, and we have had ongoing discussions with the Cabinet Office leading up to this approval. I sincerely welcome the collaboration between the public and private sectors to advance the exploration and development of space resources."

The license allows ispace to complete a contract awarded by NASA in December 2020, to acquire regolith from the lunar surface to sell to the space agency. During M1, ispace is expected to collect regolith that accumulates on the footpad of the landing gear during the touchdown on the surface, photograph the collected regolith and conduct an "in-place" transfer of ownership of the lunar regolith to NASA. After ownership transfer, the collected

material becomes the property of NASA, under the Artemis program. Under the contract, the lunar regolith will not be returned to Earth.

Under a second contract awarded to ispace's subsidiary ispace EUROPE S.A. (ispace EU) by NASA, ispace EU will acquire the lunar material on its second mission scheduled for 2024 as part of the HAKUTO-R program. An application for Mission 2 will be submitted to obtain a separate authorization.

In order to receive a license to operate its first mission, ispace presented a business activity plan for Mission 1 (M1) to Japan's Cabinet Office under the Space Activities Act and the Promotion of Business Activities for the Exploration and Development of Space Resources. The license (S22-019) was issued on November 4, 2022.

### **About ispace, inc.**

ispace, a global lunar resource development company with the vision, "Expand our Planet. Expand our Future.", specializes in designing and building lunar landers and rovers. ispace aims to extend the sphere of human life into space and create a sustainable world by providing high-frequency, low-cost transportation services to the Moon. The company has offices in Japan, Luxembourg, and the United States with more than 200 employees worldwide. ispace technologies U.S., inc. is part of a team led by Draper, which was awarded a NASA Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) Program contract to land on the far side of the Moon by 2025 (as of November 2022). Both ispace, and ispace EUROPE S.A. (ispace EU) were awarded contracts to collect and transfer ownership of lunar regolith to NASA, and ispace EU was selected by ESA to be part of the Science Team for PROSPECT, a program which seeks to extract water on the Moon. Learn more online: [ispace-inc.com](https://www.ispace-inc.com)

Established in 2010, ispace operated "HAKUTO" which was one of five finalist teams in the Google Lunar XPRIZE race. The company's first mission as part of its HAKUTO-R lunar exploration program is currently planned for as early as November 2022 and is expected to launch from the United States on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. ispace has also launched a lunar data business concept to support new customers as a gateway to conduct business on the Moon.

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