Joint Statement of Intent between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the United Kingdom Space Agency on Lunar Research and Exploration

July 15, 2019

Recognizing that the United States and United Kingdom believe the Moon is a scientifically rich destination where major scientific questions can be addressed, offering opportunities for scientific research and exploration across multiple scientific disciplines,

Recognizing that NASA and the UK Space Agency have a common interest in accessing the Moon for science, and in supporting and utilizing private sector capabilities and mission services in lunar orbit, and on the lunar surface and vicinity,

Recognizing that NASA and UK Space Agency share an interest in pursuing cooperative scientific investigations at the Moon, including the provision that NASA is interested in investigating the possibility of utilizing UK commercial communication and navigation assets in lunar orbit to maximize the scientific return from NASA's lunar surface activities and that the UK Space Agency is interested in undertaking the highest quality science and stimulating the UK's commercial exploration activity.

NASA and the UK Space Agency intend to establish a working group to coordinate joint scientific research and identify by the end of 2019 future cooperative opportunities. Once identified, such cooperative activities may be formalized in one or more international agreements to be developed between the two agencies in time to be submitted for approval to their respective authorities and considering the respective decision milestones on both sides.

This is without prejudice to the possibility of carrying out the future cooperative arrangements with other parties including ESA.

Thomas Zurbuchen Associate Administrator

for Science

NASA

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