

Formal Inauguration of the ICEUM4 Conference

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The International Lunar Exploration Working Group (ILEWG) was established in April 1995 at a meeting in Hamburg, Germany. As established in their charter, this working group includes representatives from many major space agencies around the world and is charged with developing an international strategy for the exploration of the Moon. One of the first tasks of ILEWG was to establish a communication mechanism. ILEWG organised several International Conferences on Exploration and Utilisation of The Moon (ICEUM) in Tokyo (1996), Moscow (1998) and this year at ESTEC. As this ILEWG internet network grows, provision will be added for adding technical and informational reports from all space agencies and from other interested parties. ILEWG is also serving as an information exchange center for potential and real future lunar robotic and human missions, as well as for new scientific and resource information about the Moon.

The **International Lunar Exploration Working Group (ILEWG) Forum** is a public forum sponsored by the world's space agencies to support "international cooperation towards a world strategy for the exploration and utilization of the Moon - our natural satellite".

The Forum is intended to serve three relevant groups:

- actual members of the ILEWG, ie delegates and representatives of the participating Space Agencies and organizations - allowing them to discuss and possibly harmonize their draft concepts and plans
- team members of the relevant space projects - allowing them to coordinate their internal work according to the guidelines provided by the Charter of the ILEWG
- members of the general public who are interested and wish to be informed on the progress of the Moon projects and possibly contribute their own ideas

We shall discuss at the ICEUM4 new results, future missions, technologies and developments for exploration and utilisation of the Moon. ILEWG task groups meet to establish recommendations and plans of actions.