NASAfacts

Virginia Contributions to Artemis

NASA's 21st century lunar exploration program is called Artemis. Pioneering Artemis missions turn science fiction into science fact as we make discoveries, advance technologies, and learn to live and work on another world.

Through Artemis III and beyond, robots and humans will examine more of the Moon than ever before. We will learn what resources we can collect on the Moon rather than bringing them from Earth. Finding resources like water will reduce dependency on Earth and help us move closer to human exploration of Mars.

Here on Earth, Artemis stimulates the space economy by fueling industries and technologies and spurring demand for a high-tech workforce.

NASA engages partners and suppliers across the nation to research, develop, and build the launch vehicle, spacecraft, and technologies needed for a sustained presence on the lunar surface.





The people and businesses of Virginia play a pivotal role as NASA boldly goes forward to the Moon.

Virginia is the Place for Space

From wind tunnels to launchpads, Virginia is home to a thriving aerospace ecosystem. The commonwealth hosts two NASA facilities, Langley Research Center and Wallops Flight Facility, as well as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS), a commercial launch site on Wallops Island owned and operated by the Virginia Spaceport Authority. Virginia is also home to over 500 aerospace companies. This bustling industry is supported by more than 65 public-use airports and a robust technology and government-contracting corridor in Northern Virginia.

Together, We Discover

Artemis Benefits from Virginia's Contributions

The next Moon landing will represent the culmination of years of effort by thousands of Americans, within NASA and the private sector.

Companies that serve as Artemis partners contribute to the Orion spacecraft, the Space Launch System (SLS) heavy lift rocket, and Exploration Ground Systems (EGS). EGSs are systems and facilities needed to prepare and launch spacecraft.

Lead contractors for Orion, SLS, and EGS include:

- Lockheed Martin for Orion
- L3Harris Technologies, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and Teledyne Brown for the Space Launch System
- Amentum and Bechtel for Exploration Ground Systems

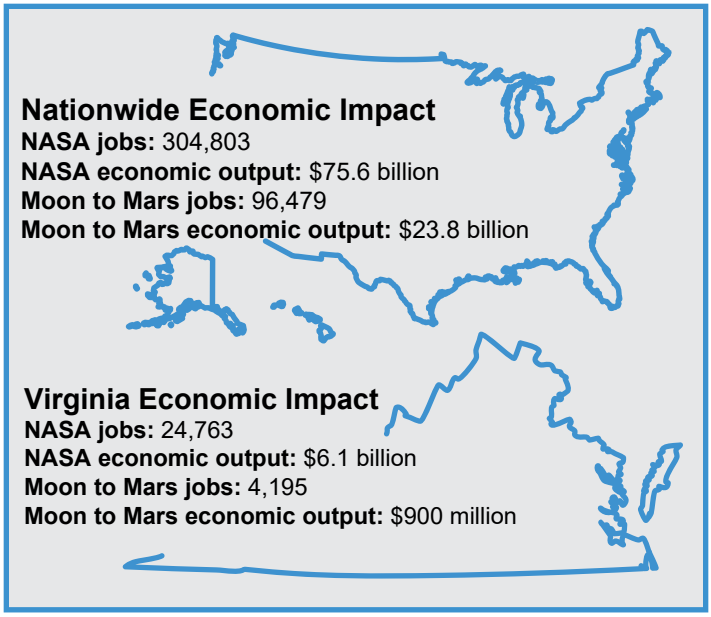
Four major Artemis contractors are headquartered in Virginia (Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Bechtel, and Amentum), and Lockheed Martin and L3Harris Technologies maintain significant presences in the commonwealth.

The list of NASA's Deep Space Exploration System suppliers includes 147 companies based in Virginia.

Aerospace Fuels the U.S. Economy

NASA commissioned a study of its national economic impact for FY2023 to better understand how its activities impacted the American economy. The analysis shows the immense impact of NASA and its partners on markets and employment across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Today, the Artemis program supports more than 96,000 jobs across the nation and provides over $20 billion in economic output.



Source: NASA, Economic Impact Report (FY 2023)

NASA's Langley Research Center

Employees at NASA's Langley Research Center have long pioneered aerospace and science research and development—expanding horizons and providing game-changing solutions.

Today, Langley's contributions to Artemis include building Artemis mission architecture, refining SLS aerodynamics, collecting visual data on launch and reentry, developing code that helps protect crew from radiation, supporting work in guidance, navigation, and control systems, studying plume-surface interactions, programming robotics for in-space assembly, and developing business approaches for space commerce.

The center's engineers and scientists provide critical expertise in the phase of spaceflight called Entry, Descent, and Landing; and managed the development of the Launch Abort System—which would safely propel the Orion crew away from SLS in the event of a launch emergency.

Take a virtual tour to learn more about Langley.

NASA's Wallops Flight Facility

Located on Virginia's Eastern Shore but operating as part of NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, NASA's Wallops Flight Facility gives government agencies, along with commercial and academic partners, flexible and cost-effective access to space and controlled airspace, supporting launch vehicles ranging from small to intermediate class.

During Artemis launch operations, Wallops manages the Bermuda Tracking Station, with teams working both in Virginia and on site in Bermuda. As astronauts begin their journey to the Moon, the station collects telemetry from the SLS rocket's core stage before and after it separates from the Orion spacecraft.

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