Google LUNAR X PRIZE

Revolution Through Competition

GOOGLE LUNAR X PRIZE

NAME: Google Lunar X PRIZE

PURSE: $60 million (collectively)
$30 million prize purse & $30 million NASA contracts

OBJECTIVE: To drastically reduce the cost of exploration by providing new capabilities to access the Moon and its unique resources and thereby foster entire new industries, generate new scientific discoveries and inspire the next generation of explorers.

TEAMS: Teams range from entrepreneurial start-ups and student-led groups to well-established brands and manufacturers.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The $30 million Google Lunar X PRIZE will be awarded to the teams that land a robot on the lunar surface, explore the Moon by moving at least 500 meters, and return packages of high definition video and imagery called "Mooncasts." This unprecedented, international competition is inspiring engineers and entrepreneurs from around the world to develop low-cost methods of robotic space exploration. The largest international prize ever offered, the Google Lunar X PRIZE is divided into a $20 million Grand Prize, a $5 million Second Place Prize, and $5 million in Performance Bonuses for teams that perform additional jobs, such as surviving a lunar night or filming historical hardware on the lunar surface.

In addition to the $30 million purse, NASA's Innovative Lunar Demonstrations Data (ILDD) program will purchase data related to the lunar missions from US based Google Lunar X PRIZE teams. NASA is purchasing this data for design of an end-to-end lunar landing mission. The ILDD program will award contracts over the course of the next few years with a total value of as much as $30.1 million to teams that can meet certain technical criteria. Multiple award contracts can be won with amounts ranging from $10,000 to as much as $10.1 million.

Teams will design, build, and launch robotic explorers to the surface of the Moon. These will be the first vehicles to visit the lunar surface since 1976. Launch attempts may occur as early as Q1 2014, with the competition expiration date being December 31 2015.

TEAMS

Currently there are 25 teams from 16 different countries who are competing in the Google Lunar X PRIZE.

googlelunarxprize.org

Radical Breakthroughs for the Benefit of Humanity.

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EDUCATION OUTREACH

Education and inspiration are key underlying goals driving the Google Lunar X PRIZE. Throughout the competition, educational programs are designed to teach students about space exploration and to inspire them toward careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

MOONBOTS
A Google Lunar X PRIZE LEGO® MINDSTORMS Challenge

MoonBots: A Google Lunar XPRIZE MINDSTORMS Challenge is an annual contest that challenges small teams of students from all over the world to design, program and construct robots that perform simulated lunar missions to those required to win the $30 million Google Lunar X PRIZE. Youth and adult mentors also get to use their imagination and problem solving skills to develop inspirational videos, social media tools and STEM outreach projects around the topic of space exploration for the public to enjoy. Partners such as Google, LEGO, National Instruments and WIRED have helped with promotional awareness and have also given supportive funds to make this contest free to enter. To date, 250 teams from agencies like FIRST, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, public schools, private schools, home school networks, robotics leagues, and after school programs have participated in this international contest.

COMPETITION BENEFACTOR

Google™

Google's innovative search technologies connect millions of people around the world with information every day. Founded in 1998 by Stanford Ph.D. students Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Google today is a top web property in all major global markets. Google's targeted advertising program provides businesses of all sizes with measurable results, while enhancing the overall web experience for users. In sponsoring the Google Lunar X PRIZE, they hope to stimulate a passion for space-related research and education in a new generation of potential innovators, which will make private space flight more viable. Google is headquartered in Silicon Valley with offices throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia.

ABOUT THE X PRIZE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1995, the X PRIZE Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the leading organization solving the world's Grand Challenges by creating and managing large-scale, high-profile, incentivized prize competitions that stimulate investment in research and development worth far more than the prize itself. The organization motivates and inspires brilliant innovators from all disciplines to leverage their intellectual and financial capital for the benefit of humanity. The X PRIZE Foundation conducts competitions in four Prize Groups: Education & Global Development; Energy & Environment; Life Sciences; and Exploration. Prizes won include the $10 million Ansari X PRIZE for private, suborbital space flight; the $10 million Progressive Insurance Automotive X PRIZE for creating safe, affordable, production-capable vehicles that exceed 100 MPGe (energy equivalent); the $2 million Northrop Grumman Lunar Lander X CHALLENGE for advanced rocket development; and the $1.4 million Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE for highly effective, ocean surface oil spill cleanup methods. Active prizes include the $30 million Google Lunar X PRIZE, the $10 million Archon Genomics X PRIZE presented by Medco, and the $10 million Qualcomm Tricorder X PRIZE. For more information, go to www.xprize.org.

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Presented By

Press Contact: Alan Zack - alan.zack@xprize.org

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