

# The Lunar Settlement Initiative

PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR  
PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOON

## An Initiative to Promote Privately Funded Exploration and Settlement of Luna

OPENED FOR COMMENT 20 JULY 2003

**Purpose.** To recognize that the future of humankind may rest beyond Earth, and that the resources to develop programs for the exploration, settlement and development of Luna, Earth's Moon, may best be provided through an international public-private partnership with the commercial space industry, now, therefore, be it resolved that an initiative shall be established to provide the framework for such cause.

### **Whereas,**

*In the course of human progress, our dreams and aspirations lead us to reach beyond the Earth that we know,*

*Mindful of the sake and safety of humankind in the future; acknowledging Luna's promise as a center of study and research for astronomers, geologists and other members of the scientific community; and hopeful of providing alternative supplies of energy and other essential resources for both Luna and Earth,*

*Recognizing that Luna, as Earth's nearest celestial neighbor and bonded companion world, constitutes a common heritage with all humankind, and must not be subject to national appropriation in any manner whatsoever, and*

*With the knowledge that the settlement of Luna is the next practical step in humankind's venturing deeper into the Universe around us,*

*Be it resolved that this initiative to promote the privately funded exploration and settlement of Luna shall be recognized as the basis for providing financial resources to attain this objective.*

**Initiative.** Any organization, whether operating for profit or not for profit, shall be permitted to offer for sale to any private entity<sup>1</sup> a legal and valid claim to property on Luna in exchange for payment that shall be directly utilized to fund a program that will result in the human settlement of Luna. Each organization, acting on behalf of the land claim owners, shall be solely responsible for distributing and investing the funds in a manner that shall successfully accomplish the goal of returning humans to Luna.

**Settlement.** For a land claim to be granted legal recognition and certification, a human-based settlement must be established and permanently and continuously inhabited on Luna. The location and population of the settlement may change, as long as there continues to be an inhabited settlement within the claim. This settlement may include, but is not limited to, temporary shelters and structures; mobile or moveable vehicles or assemblies; permanent facilities for research, mining, construction or human habitation; tourist accommodations; and/or strategic emplacements.

**Size of land claims.** Land claims shall be offered in individual parcels of one acre.<sup>2</sup> No single organization shall offer claims to more than ten percent (10%) of the total land available on Luna.<sup>3</sup>

**Purchase limits.** Private entities shall not be limited in the amount of individual parcels they may purchase under the terms of this Initiative, although no single entity shall be permitted to own or control, whether through purchases, contracts, agreements or other instruments, more than ten percent (10%) of the total land available on Luna.

**Pricing.** The establishment of pricing for land claims shall be the sole responsibility of the offering organization. As no value has currently been determined for Lunar land, an organization may consider such factors as fair value to the consumer and potential return on investment in setting prices. Pricing may be subject to reasonable additional processing charges or shipping fees at the discretion of the offering organization; such charges and fees shall be considered exclusive of land claim offering price.

*Example:* A land claim is priced at \$50. An individual purchases a five-acre claim. An additional fee of \$5 is assessed for postage and handling to ship the documents to the consumer. The shipping fee is not subject to the *Division of proceeds* statute (q.v.) of this Initiative.

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<sup>1</sup> — *Private entity:* An individual, corporation or consortium of companies, which is not controlled by a sovereign state or government.

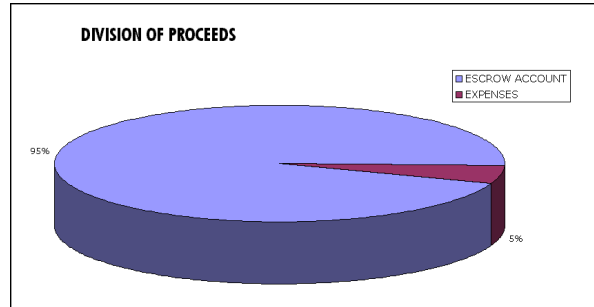
<sup>2</sup> — *Acre:* Equal to 43,560 square feet or 4,840 square yards in English measure. The metric equivalent is 0.4 (<sup>2</sup>/<sub>5</sub>) of a hectare (4,047 square meters).

<sup>3</sup> — For the purposes of this document, it is established that Luna comprises nine billion (9,000,000,000) total acres of land.

**Sales term.** Any organization offering land claims for sale must establish a projected length of sales term as part of any settlement project proposal.

*Example:* Organization A plans to offer land claims during a sales term of ten years in order to finance its settlement project.

**Division of proceeds.** Any organization offering land claims for sale must direct not less than ninety-five percent (95%) of all revenues received exclusively toward a settlement project; conversely, not more than five percent (5%) of all revenues received may be utilized to pay for operating expenses.



**Property and mineral rights.** Upon the recognition and certification of land claims, the land owner shall be entitled to inhabit and develop the property in any manner, subject to any laws or statutes that may be established by a sovereign, independent Lunar government, which shall be freely elected by its citizens. Property ownership on Luna shall be held as *fee simple*,<sup>4</sup> with mineral rights extending to a plumb depth of five kilometers below the height of average terrain (“BHAT”), to be determined by in situ engineering surveys.

**Conservation.** Provisions shall be made for the respectful conservation and preservation of Luna’s distinctive geographic features — especially major craters, mountains and other unique formations — as well as the historic landing sites of earlier visitors from the *Luna*, *Ranger*, *Surveyor* and *Apollo* missions, as the legacy of all humankind. No organization may offer for sale, and no private entity may claim, possess, develop or otherwise alter, any geographic formation or historical site catalogued in the Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature as established by the International Astronomical Union and maintained by the USGS Astrogeology Research Program (<http://planetarynames.wr.usgs.gov/moon/moonTOC.html>) with the exception of named *mare* regions and named mountain chains.

**Legal recognition.** Any settlements established under the provisions of this Initiative shall be recognized as legal under international public law. In compliance with international protocol, notification of the establishment of a settlement or settlements on Luna shall be presented in writing to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, or to any trusteeship authority designated by the United Nations for this purpose, within twenty-four hours of human occupation.

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<sup>4</sup> — *Fee simple*: generally recognized as the most common type of real estate ownership, under which the owner is allowed to have unlimited control over the deeded property.

**Complimentary properties.** (Amended 7/15/2003) An organization or its designated representative may offer land claims in limited quantities on a complimentary basis (“comp”) as a marketing, advertising or sales incentive gift to a private entity, as long as the gift, or the act of giving the gift, does not violate the laws of any jurisdiction. The full-value cost of any gift offered under this Initiative must be reimbursed in full to the escrow account for the offering organization.

*Example:* Agency B, acting as the representative of Organization A, offers the gift of five acres of property to John Smith for winning a sales promotion contest. The property is currently offered for sale at \$40 per acre on the open market. Agency B must reimburse the account of Organization A for the full value of the land claim (5 x \$40 = \$200).

**Taxes.** (Amended 7/15/2003) No organization shall impose or levy a tax or other fee upon a private entity prior to the establishment of a human settlement on Luna that is under the control of a sovereign, independent Lunar government, which shall be freely elected by its citizens. A fee for document preparation, order fulfillment or shipping charges shall not be considered as a tax for the purposes of this Initiative.

**Discounts and commissions.** (Amended 7/20/2003) **(i)** An offering agency may extend discounted pricing on properties totaling not more than ten percent (10%) of the per-acre price to any qualifying private entity. **(ii)** An offering agency may pay a commission totaling not more than ten percent (10%) of the per-acre price to any authorized or designated re-selling agent. The provisions of this statute shall not be applicable to any offers or agreements made prior to the enactment of this initiative.

**Parties to agreement.** (Amended 7/20/2003) This agreement shall be binding upon any signatory organization that expresses an intention to participate in the Initiative. Signatory organizations shall have sole discretion over the enactment, amendment and implementation of the Initiative.

**Government allocation.** (Amended 8/6/2003) Any Lunar government, freely elected by the inhabitants of Luna, shall be permitted to set aside certain areas designated for special scientific, geological, scenic, utility, strategic protection, or other use as determined by said government. Concessions shall be made to allow reasonable access to such areas by commercial or private enterprises.

**Property descriptions and nomenclature.** (Amended 8/6/2003) Any parcel of land offered must be characterized as *mare*, *highland*, *mixed*, or *other*; and must be described in terms of maximum difference of height (altitude) of terrain, *e.g.*, “flat to within five meters” or “hilly slope of 100 meters from lowest to highest point,” etc. The purpose of this statute shall be to give the landowner the best possible approximation of the quality and potential for settlement and development of the property, and must be considered as an estimate pending actual in-situ surveys of the property.