



## BACKGROUNDER:

### Odyssey Moon

### Google Lunar X PRIZE Announcement

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – San Jose

[www.odysseymoon.com](http://www.odysseymoon.com)

#### ODYSSEY MOON AND THE GOOGLE LUNAR X PRIZE

**Odyssey Moon** is the first team to complete registration for the \$30M Google Lunar X PRIZE competition. The company made its first public debut on December 6th at the Space Investment Summit in San Jose, California, unveiling its plans to make history with the first private robotic mission to the surface of the Moon and win the Google Lunar X PRIZE. The inaugural Odyssey Moon mission will involve a unique small robotic lander designed to deliver scientific, exploration and commercial payloads to the surface of the Moon.

*“We are proud to participate in the announcement of our first fully registered team. We hope the announcement will motivate and inspire even more teams to enter this race; a race that is now truly international.”* – Dr. Peter Diamandis, Chairman and CEO, X PRIZE Foundation

#### WHAT IS ODYSSEY MOON?

**Odyssey Moon Limited** is a private commercial lunar enterprise headquartered in the Isle of Man involving partners in many nations. The company is an innovative partnership of aerospace, banking, property, and international legal interests that have come together to offer unique commercial lunar business services and products for humanity’s permanent return to the Moon. Odyssey Moon is dedicated to the long term responsible development of the Moon for the benefit of all Humanity.

#### WHAT IS MOON 2.0?

**Moon 2.0** represents the second era of lunar exploration, which began on September 13th, 2007 with the announcement of the Google Lunar X PRIZE.

The Moon is a stepping stone to the rest of the solar system and a source of solutions to some of the most pressing environmental problems that we face on Earth – energy independence and climate change. It will begin with robot explorers that will help us scout out the Moon to deliver new knowledge about the Moon and the Earth. They will be followed by people with the goal of permanently integrating the Moon into Earth’s economic and social spheres, creating a two-world system for Humanity.

## WHY IS PRIVATE ENTERPRISE INTERESTED IN THE MOON?

**Humanity's adventure to explore**, understand and protect its home planet will benefit from the power of private enterprise to unleash the resources available to us, both on and off the Earth. Odyssey Moon is founded on the precept that science, exploration and commerce can co-exist in the exploration and development of the Moon, resulting in benefits for everyone on Earth.

*“Future generations will view the Google Lunar X PRIZE as the turning point of the 21st century, when humanity realized the Moon’s critical role for prosperity and survival in space and on Earth.”* - Dr. Robert (Bob) Richards, Founder and CEO

## WHAT’S THE ODYSSEY MOON BUSINESS PLAN?

**Odyssey Moon business plans** are actively in development for a series of missions to the Moon during the International Lunar Decade in support of science, exploration and commerce. It is our intention to seed and lead a new market for private commercial lunar enterprise. First we will take on the early risks and prove it can be done; then we will offer inexpensive and reliable lunar products and services to others. Odyssey Moon’s inaugural mission will involve a unique small robotic lander designed to deliver scientific, exploration and commercial payloads to the surface of the Moon.

*“We have put together an incredibly talented international team with substantial technical know how and financial depth who believe in the long term responsible development of the Moon for the benefit of all Humanity,”* - Dr. Ramin Khadem, Chairman

## IS ODYSSEY MOON STILL TAKING ON PARTNERS?

**Odyssey Moon** is open to international collaboration at several levels and welcomes discussion with others who may wish to join us in our quest for the Google Lunar X PRIZE and the pursuit of the company’s long term business plans for the peaceful development of the Moon for the benefit of all Humanity.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF MDA OF CANADA?

**Odyssey Moon’s Prime Contractor is MDA of Canada**, an experienced company with substantial space heritage in providing robotics on the Space Shuttle and International Space Station, and more recently for satellite servicing and planetary exploration. Dr. Christian Sallaberger, a Vice President with MDA's Information Systems Group, explained his company's role. "MDA has a long track record of delivering high-value cost-effective solutions to our customers and this has been a key part of our successes in space over the past 40 years," he said. "We understand the commercial space world, and we have the technical heritage and expertise to support Odyssey Moon's plan and make it happen."

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PLANETARY SOCIETY?

**The Planetary Society**, the world's largest space interest group, has joined the Odyssey Moon team to assist in education and public involvement and with international and science liaison. Founded by the late astronomer Carl Sagan, Bruce Murray and Louis Friedman, the Society encourages government, non-government and private and public participation in the exploration of other worlds.

*"The Moon is a stepping stone into the solar system, for governments and for the private sector. Odyssey Moon's leap forward to this stepping stone could presage a new day of commercial ventures beyond Earth."* - Dr. Louis Friedman, Executive Director

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF OPTECH?

**Optech Incorporated** is a privately owned Canadian high technology company that dominates worldwide markets in advanced laser measurements systems and is a corporate partner of Odyssey Moon. Optech is partnered with MDA for the development of space lidar systems. Optech's proprietary laser radar (lidar) technology was the first of its kind in orbit and is currently on the way toward Mars aboard the NASA Phoenix Mars Lander. Lidar based hazard avoidance and precision landing technologies are expected to play an essential role in lunar missions.

## WHY THE ISLE OF MAN?

**Odyssey Moon Limited** is a private commercial lunar enterprise headquartered in the Isle of Man, one of the world's foremost international finance centres. The Island is a self-governing British Crown dependency, located in the Irish Sea at the geographical centre of the British Isles. As a jurisdiction and an International Finance Centre dedicated to Space, the Island has become home to active subsidiaries of the world's leading space and satellite communications companies. The Island also aspires to be a catalyst for economic development of humanity beyond Earth orbit. Activities in Outer Space conducted by the Isle of Man are regulated and licensed under the 1986 UK Outer Space Act passed by an Order of Council to the Isle of Man in 1990.

## WHERE ARE THE ODYSSEY MOON OFFICES?

We have offices in Douglas, Isle of Man; Toronto, Canada; London, UK; and Washington, DC.

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