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NASA AND LSA TO FURTHER DEEPEN US-LUXEMBOURG CO-OPERATION IN SPACE

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- Representatives of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and of the Luxembourg Space Agency (LSA), signed a Joint Statement of Intent to explore different areas through technical and programmatic discussions with the objective of identifying opportunities for collaboration
- In parallel, NASA and LSA intend to pursue a Framework Agreement as a means of facilitating future collaboration between the two agencies

In May 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Space between the Governments of the United States of America and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg designated both NASA and LSA to exchange information about prospective collaboration. Based on this MoU, NASA Administrator James. F. Bridenstine and LSA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Marc Serres signed at the 70th International Aeronautical Congress in Washington DC a joint statement of intent to further deepen US-Luxembourg co-operation in space.

Administrator Bridenstine and Chief Executive Officer Serres acknowledged the steps taken in the United States and in Luxembourg to advance opportunities for the commercial use of space. They noted that these developments have set the stage for fruitful collaboration in areas of mutual interest, particularly in the context of NASA's priority on returning humans to the surface of the Moon by 2024 through the Artemis program, and its plans to establish the basis for a long-term human presence there by 2028, with a view towards human exploration of Mars.

They also underlined the potential these initiatives have for space resources exploration and utilization as well as for private sector entities and public private partnerships to contribute to the exploration and utilization of the Moon, Mars, and other celestial bodies. Chief Executive Officer Serres emphasized that LSA places a great importance on its aim to contribute to the peaceful exploration and sustainable utilization of space resources for the benefit of humankind.

The joint statement signed on October 22, 2019 between NASA and LSA details a number of potential areas for future collaboration, including space applications, space exploration and utilization, including the sustainable utilization of space resources, as well as sharing of scientific data and education.

The agencies will continue to explore these areas through technical and programmatic discussions with the objective of identifying potential collaboration. In parallel, NASA and LSA intend to pursue a Framework Agreement as a means of facilitating future collaboration between the two agencies.