

## **Project Overview**

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC) is designed to address two of the prime LRO measurement requirements: 1) Assess meter scale features to facilitate selection of future landing sites on the Moon. 2) Acquire images of the poles every orbit to characterize the polar illumination environment (100-meter scale), identifying regions of permanent shadow and permanent or near-permanent illumination over a full lunar year. In addition to these two main objectives, the LROC team plans to conduct meter scale mapping of polar regions, 3-dimensional observations to enable derivation of meter scale surface features, global multispectral imaging, and produce a global landform map. LROC images will also be used to map and determine current impact hazards by rephotographing areas seen in Apollo images.

LROC consists of two Narrow Angle Cameras (NACs) to provide 0.5-meter scale panchromatic images over a 5-km swath, a Wide Angle Camera (WAC) to provide 100-meter scale images in seven color bands over a 60 km swath, and a Sequence and Compressor System (SCS) supporting data acquisition for both cameras. LROC is a modified version of the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter's ConTeXt Camera (CTX) and MARs Color Imager (MARCI) provided by Malin Space Science Systems (MSSS) in San Diego, CA.



#### **Internet Resources**

LROC Website LRO Website MSSS http://lroc.sese.asu.edu http://lro.gsfc.nasa.gov http://www.msss.com

#### **Measurement Objectives**

**1. Landing site identification and certification**— The NACs provide 0.5-meter per pixel angular resolution monochrome imaging to locate safe landing sites for future robotic and human missions and provide mission planners with the data needed to determine optimal sampling and logistical strategies for each proposed landing site.

**2.** Mapping of permanent shadow and sunlit regions – Permanently shadowed regions may harbor volatile deposits and regions of permanent, or near-permanent, illumination that are prime locations for future lunar bases. To delimit such regions the WAC acquires 100-meter per pixel images of the polar regions during nearly every orbit.

**3. Meter scale mapping of polar regions**— During respective summers, the NACs acquire contiguous meter-scale images of each polar region when the shadows are minimal. Then, in respective winters, areas that remain illuminated are imaged repeatedly to sharpen mission planners' ability to select optimal landing sites.

**4. Overlapping observations to enable derivation of meter scale topography**— The NACs collect repeat images with appropriate illumination and viewing geometries to provide geometric and photometric stereo sets for production of 1- to 5-meter scale topographic maps.

**5. Global multi-spectral imaging**— Seven band WAC images permit discrimination of mineralogic and compositional variations on the surface.

**6. Global morphology base map**— The WAC provides BW imaging at 100-meters per pixel with illumination optimal for morphological mapping (incidence angles of 55°-75°, incidence angles are higher at the poles).

**7. Characterize regolith properties**— NAC images enable estimation of regolith thickness and other key parameters around potential lunar landing sites.

**8. Determine current impact hazards**— The NACs reimage regions photographed by Apollo 15-17 to provide the means to estimate impact rates over the past 40 years.

# **Science Operations Center**

LROC planning, targeting, and data processing activities take place at the Science Operations Center (SOC) located at Arizona State University. The SOC receives between 300 and 450 Gbits of raw image data per day (about 350 NAC images and pole-to-pole WAC images). Production of calibrated images and mosaics will result in over 65 TBytes for archive with NASA's Planetary Data System (PDS). LROC image data will be disseminated to the public via a web interface: http://lroc.sese.asu.edu



## Narrow Angle Camera (NAC)



# Wide Angle Camera (WAC)



FOV Image Scale

Image Width

Optics Effective FL Pupil Diameter MTF (Nyquist) Detector Mass Volume **Peak Power Average Power** Filters

1024 x 16 pixels monochrome (push frame) 704 x 16 pixels 7-filter VIS color (push frame) 512 x 4 pixels 2-filter UV color (push frame)  $90^{\circ}$  (vis) and  $60^{\circ}$  (UV) 1.5 milli-radian, 75 meters/pixel nadir (vis) 2.0 milli-radian, 400 meters/pixel nadir (UV) 100 km (vis monochrome) 88 km (vis color and UV) f/5.1 (vis), f/5.3 (UV) 6.0 mm (vis), 4.6 mm (UV) 1.19 mm (vis), 0.85 mm (UV) > 0.3 Kodak KAI-1001 0.86 kg 14.5 cm x 9.2 cm x 7.6 cm 4 W 4 W 315, 360, 415, 560, 600, 640, 680 nm

### **Science and Operations Team**

Mark Robinson, Pl	Arizona State University
Eric Eliason	University of Arizona
Harald Hiesinger	Münster University
Brad Jolliff	Washington University
Michael Malin	Malin Space Science Systems
Alfred McEwen	University of Arizona
Peter Thomas	Cornell University
Elizabeth Turtle	Johns Hopkins University/APL
Ernest Bowman-Cisneros	Arizona State University

#### **MSSS Instrument Development Team**

- Michael A. Ravine **Michael Caplinger Scott Brylow Tony Ghaemi Jacob Schaffner Paul Otjens**
- Advanced Projects Manager Senior Systems Engineer Instrument Manager Senior Optical Engineer **Electronics Engineer** Senior Electronics Engineer