Return to the Moon (RTM) Conference
July 16 - 18, 2004 at the Westin Casuarina, Las Vegas, Nevada

Space Age Publishing Company has had a strong, longstanding commitment to the annual RTM Conference, which is presented through the Space Frontier Foundation. This conference draws American based commercial and private interests, with the objective of establishing a large scale, economically viable, permanent human settlement on the Moon within the next 25 years. RTM enjoys the participation and support of such space exploration visionaries as Captain John Young, Buzz Aldrin, Dr. Harrison Schmitt, Gene Cernan, Dr. Alan Binder, Dr. Paul Spudis, Dr. David Criswell, and Dr. Wendell Mendell. The Conference is a networking forum for attendees and presenters alike. Return to the Moon 5 Conference will be co-chaired by author Andrew Chaikin and Rick Tumlinson, an original founder of RTM. Featured participants include Dr. George Mueller, who led the Apollo program from 1963 - 1969, Captain John Young, Apollo 16 moonwalker, Courtney Stadd, former NASA Chief of Staff, and film director James Cameron. Space Age Publishing Company is a co-sponsor of this event.

International Lunar Exploratory Working Group (ILEWG) Forum
November 22 - 26, 2004 in Udaipur, India

This public forum is sponsored by the international science community to foster worldwide cooperation in developing a strategy for lunar exploration and utilization. Moving forward in the spirit of the Beatenberg Declaration (1994), this Forum of space agency representatives, team members currently involved in relevant space projects, and interested members of the community, engages in the free exchange of ideas, information, and strategies for a global effort enabling humanity to become a multi-planet species. Space Age Publishing Company has been an active participant within this diverse group, implementing the advancement of the Forum to an annual event. Editor Steve Durst co-chaired ILEWG 5 in Hawaii (2003), stating that, “The number one goal of the conference is to see people on the Moon within the decade. To kick-start that objective, a strategy to be presented is planting on the lunar surface an initial astronomical capability. That first element would later be serviced and upgraded by ‘astronomer technicians’, as would a build-up of other observational gear.” ILEWG 6, sponsored by the International Lunar Exploratory Working Group, Physical Research Laboratory, Indian Space Research Organization, and European Space Agency, will take place November 22-26, 2004 in Udaipur, India.

Resources / References / Directions

The Moon Society: Non-Profit formed to further research and development of the Moon
Kavli Foundation: Philanthropic supporter of Stanford astrophysics and cosmology research
SETI Institute: Search for extraterrestrial life may be aided by lunar radio telescope
Stanford Dish: Source for extraterrestrial life may be aided by lunar telescope
Stanford Sophomore Seminar: Suggested to introduce lunar project to Stanford University
Stanford On The Moon Symposium: October 2, 2004, 09:00 - 11:30 at Stanford; Please RSVP

Lunar Dish Observatory
SpaceDev
Status: NET July 2006
Project: Commissioned by Lunar Enterprise Corporation, the developmental arm of SpaceDev, a wholly owned subsidiary of Space Age Publishing Company, the Lunar Dish Observatory and Study was designed, according to SpaceDev’s philosophy of elegant simplicity, as a near term, highly efficient, low-cost lunar mission with meaningful scientific, astronomy payload. Every type of lunar based astronomy is far superior to Earth based astronomy due to the diffuse atmosphere, stable surface, low gravity, and significantly lower levels of electromagnetic manmade noise. The Lunar Dish Observatory also would offer unparalleled advantages for SETI type research, Earth observation, and detection of Earth approaching objects. The SpaceDev Lunar Observatory consists of a 2-3 meter rigid dish antenna with a COTS receiver qualified for space use, and a pedestal with crush structure and shock absorber fitted legs. The project will launch from Baikonur into a 300 km circular orbit via a Dnepr. The spacecraft will then fire a Star 48 solid motor to insert into a phasing orbit of approximately five days, awaiting lunar alignment. The SpaceDev hybrid motor, which is currently being utilized by Scaled Composites and the U.S. Air Force, will then move the spacecraft to insert to TLI. The Lunar Dish Observatory will then move into a lower orbit and execute a soft landing on the lunar surface in a location carefully chosen to maximize utilization of the project’s capabilities.