International Lunar Conference 2003 Abstract Harrison Schmitt

## A Business Approach to a Return to the Moon

Resources on the Moon, in addition to their potential use in space, could become an essential part of future Helium-3 fusion or solar energy alternatives to the use of environmentally unacceptable hydrocarbons as fuels on Earth. The vision of a proposed Interlune-Intermars Initiative encompasses commercial enterprises related to resources from space which support the preservation of the human species and our home planet. A commercially instigated return of human activities to the Moon will be required as an alternative to government sponsored efforts due to the increasing limitations on discretionary spending of tax resources.

Attaining a level of sustaining operations for the core fusion power and lunar resource business of the proposed Interlune-Intermars Initiative requires about 15 years and \$10 to 15 billion of private investment capital as well as the successful marketing and profitable sales of a variety of applied fusion technologies. This level of private investment lies within the spectrum of similar private financing of modern projects such as the TransAlaska Pipeline and the Eurotunnel.