

ASU chosen to lead NASA CubeSat mission

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(Photo: Sean Amidan/ASU/SpaceTReX)

Classes have just started at ASU but the university already has some big news. The school announced it has been selected by NASA to head up a lunar CubeSat mission.

The ASU-built spacecraft will be used to produce a map of the water resources on the moon for future space exploration.

The mini spacecraft is about the size of a shoebox with wings. The aircraft will orbit the moon looking for water-ice on our nearest neighbor.

The CubeSat will be designed, built and operated out of Arizona State University. The spacecraft, called the Lunar Polar Hydrogen Mapper, will produce HD maps of the Moon's water deposits.

It's the third time ASU has worked with NASA on a project but the first time planetary science spacecraft mission that will be led by ASU.

Around 15 to 20 ASU professionals, including students, will take part in the project including testing the spacecraft. The CubeSat will include a camera, a neutron detector and solar panels.

The spacecraft could take part in the lunar orbit on Exploration Mission-1, the first flight of NASA's Space Launch System.

For more information on the spacecraft and the mission visit asunews.asu.edu/20150825-LunaH-CubeSat (<https://asunews.asu.edu/20150825-LunaH-CubeSat>).

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