SAVE THE DATE

TO SEE A

MOON

Launch from M.A.R.S*

09.05.2013

LADEE: *A Mission of Firsts*, launching from Wallops, VA on a Minotaur V rocket. Learn more at http://moon.nasa.gov

*Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, VA.

Launch can also be seen from Washington DC, weather permitting

What is LADEE?

NASA's Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE) is a robotic mission that will orbit our Moon to gather detailed information about our Moon's atmosphere, conditions near the surface and environmental influences on lunar dust. A thorough understanding of these characteristics will address longstanding unknowns, and help scientists understand other planetary bodies as well.

Why Does the LADEE Mission Matter?

The tenuous lunar atmosphere is an example of the most common, and least studied, type of atmosphere in our Solar System, an "exosphere." Exospheres are so thin that the molecules which comprise them don't collide. Atmospheres are incredibly complex systems that we are only beginning to understand. By studying this simplest type of atmosphere right in our own celestial "backyard" we will gain insights into the basic processes that will help us understand the creation and evolution of atmospheres of all types, including our own here on Earth.

LADEE: A Mission of Firsts!

- First Moon launch from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), VA
- First launch of Minotaur V rocket
- First demonstration of Optical Laser Communications from space (will send data 6X faster than radio)
- First spacecraft designed and built at NASA's Ames Research Center, CA