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Notice Regarding Completion of the Preliminary Design Review (PDR) for the Mission 3 "ULTRA" Lander

ispace, inc. ("ispace") hereby announces that it has completed the Preliminary Design Review (PDR) for the ULTRA lander to be used in Mission 3, scheduled for launch in 2028[i]. The review established the system-wide preliminary design, incorporating the planned engine modifications, as described below.

1. The ULTRA Lander to Be Used in Mission 3

(1) Overview of The ULTRA Lander

In October 2023, ispace was selected by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) under the Space Domain theme, "Development and Demonstration of a Lunar Lander," as part of the Small and Medium Enterprise Innovation Promotion Program (SBIR Phase 3), with a subsidy award of up to ¥12 billion. Under this program, ispace had been developing the Series 3 lander, with Mission 3, scheduled for launch in 2028*, serving as its inaugural mission.

Subsequently, in March 2026, ispace announced that it had redesignated the Series 3 lander and begun development of the new "ULTRA" lander model, integrating its Japanese and U.S. lander platforms in response to growing global demand for lunar development. The initiative aims to meet customer expectations for higher mission quality and improved development efficiency. At the same time, ispace also announced plans to change the lander's engine configuration. As announced in the press release "ispace and Nammo Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Long-Term Propulsion Supply-Chain Resilience and Procurement Cooperation" issued on November 12, 2026, ispace is currently proceeding with development reflecting the adoption of the engine supplied by Nammo.

The ULTRA lander is a full-scale commercial lunar lander platform that has been enlarged and enhanced compared to the RESILIENCE lander operated during Mission 2. The spacecraft is expected to measure approximately 3.6 meters in height and 3.3 meters in width with its landing legs deployed, have a dry mass of approximately 1,000 kilograms, and provide payload capacity of approximately 200 kilograms.

(2) Progress of Lander Development

For the development of its landers, ispace employs a systems engineering approach based on a phased project lifecycle methodology. At the completion of each development phase, a technical review is conducted to evaluate the results and determine whether the project is ready to advance to the next phase.

ispace has now completed the PDR for the ULTRA lander to be used in Mission 3. The review established the system-wide preliminary design, incorporating the planned engine modifications.

As part of the recent PDR, ispace verified the overall propulsion system design reflecting the adoption of the engine supplied by Nammo, which was previously announced for integration into the ULTRA lander. The review also confirmed the feasibility of the overall system design and established the design baseline, including key parameters such as mass, power, and Delta-V. In addition, ispace reviewed the implementation plans and design updates required across all subsystems as a result of the engine change.

Completion of the PDR represents a major development milestone, marking the conclusion of the preliminary design phase for the ULTRA lander system. Following the successful completion of this review, ispace will carry out detailed design activities based on the preliminary design established through the PDR.

2. Future Outlook

Following completion of this PDR, development of the ULTRA lander to be used in Mission 3 will transition from the preliminary design phase to the detailed design phase. Going forward, the company will carry out detailed design activities based on the preliminary design established through the PDR, with the objective of completing the Critical Design Review (CDR). Afterward, ispace will proceed with the manufacturing of the flight model to be used in Mission 3 and conduct a series of qualification and verification tests before advancing to launch preparation activities.

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i ispace had originally agreed with Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the SBIR program office that Mission 3 would launch during 2027. However, as of November 2026, ispace's internal development schedule anticipates a launch in 2028. The proposed schedule change is currently under discussion with the relevant government ministries and the SBIR program office. Any revision to the approved project plan will ultimately require formal authorization from METI.