

# NEWSLETTER

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ispace

## Japan's Basic Plan on Space Policy Introduces Actions for Space Resource Exploration and Development

Considerations and actions for space resource exploration and development is now a part of the 20-year implementation schedule for Japan's Basic Plan on Space Policy

**Tokyo, Japan - December 16<sup>th</sup>** — Japan's Office of National Space Policy [announced on the 13th](#) that the revised Basic Plan on Space Policy Implementation Schedule now includes "considerations and actions for space resource exploration and development" as one of Japan's initiatives to promote national space related enterprises over the next 20 years.

The Basic Plan on Space Policy Implementation Schedule is Japan's national strategy for space exploration that is determined by the Office of National Space Policy under the Cabinet Office. This schedule is considered critical for the Japanese space industry, as the government is responsible for allocating budgets and implementing all of the listed plans. It is revised annually based on the implementation progress to effectively achieve the three goals of the Basic Plan on Space Policy: 1) ensuring space security, 2) promoting the use of space in civil sector, and 3) maintaining and strengthening the foundations of industry and science and technology. The newly added actions for space resource exploration and development is in line with this third goal.

Already, discussions for the legislation of space resource development are taking place in Europe and the United States. In order to accelerate Japan's national discussion in this field, the initiative announced today also focuses on investigations of international activities for the promotion of exploration and cultivation of minerals in asteroids and the Moon.

Based in Tokyo, Japan, ispace inc. is working to develop a lunar mining business to cultivate the space resource market. The space industry is estimated to reach a value of [90 billion US dollars in 2030](#), and the resource market is predicted to be at its core.

The company currently manages the front running Google Lunar XPRIZE team, [HAKUTO](#). Next year the company will send a rover to the Moon to demonstrate its micro-robotic technology for lunar exploration. In the next decade ispace plans to establish a high-frequency transportation service to the Moon and map potential resources. In the long term, the company plans to deliver extracted and processed resources to customers on and around the Moon.

ispace welcomes this revision of the implementation schedule by the Japanese government, as this strongly supports the company's lunar exploration and resource development initiative.

**About ispace, Inc.**

ispace is a space robotics company focused on developing miniaturized technology to discover, map, and utilize resources in space. ispace designs, manufactures, and manages robotics for Team Hakuto, a front running Google Lunar XPRIZE team. ispace and Team Hakuto are sending the first privately developed micro-rover to the Moon in 2017 in an attempt to win the \$20M XPRIZE and conduct preliminary prospecting activities. For more information, please visit <http://ispace-inc.com>

**About HAKUTO**

Team HAKUTO, run by the Japanese startup ispace technologies Inc., is the only Japanese team competing for the Google Lunar XPRIZE. The team is comprised of various members including: the members of ispace, Tohoku University, and Pro-Bono experts from various fields. HAKUTO was awarded a Mobility Milestone Prize from Google Lunar XPRIZE in January 2015. For more information, please visit <http://team-hakuto.jp/en/> or @team\_hakuto\_en.

**About the Google Lunar XPRIZE**

The \$30M Google Lunar XPRIZE is an unprecedented competition to challenge and inspire engineers and entrepreneurs from around the world to develop low-cost methods of robotic space exploration. To win the Google Lunar XPRIZE, a privately funded team must successfully place a robot on the Moon's surface that explores at least 500 meters and transmits high-definition video and images back to Earth, before the mission deadline of December 31, 2017. For more information, please visit <http://lunar.xprize.org/> or @GLXP.