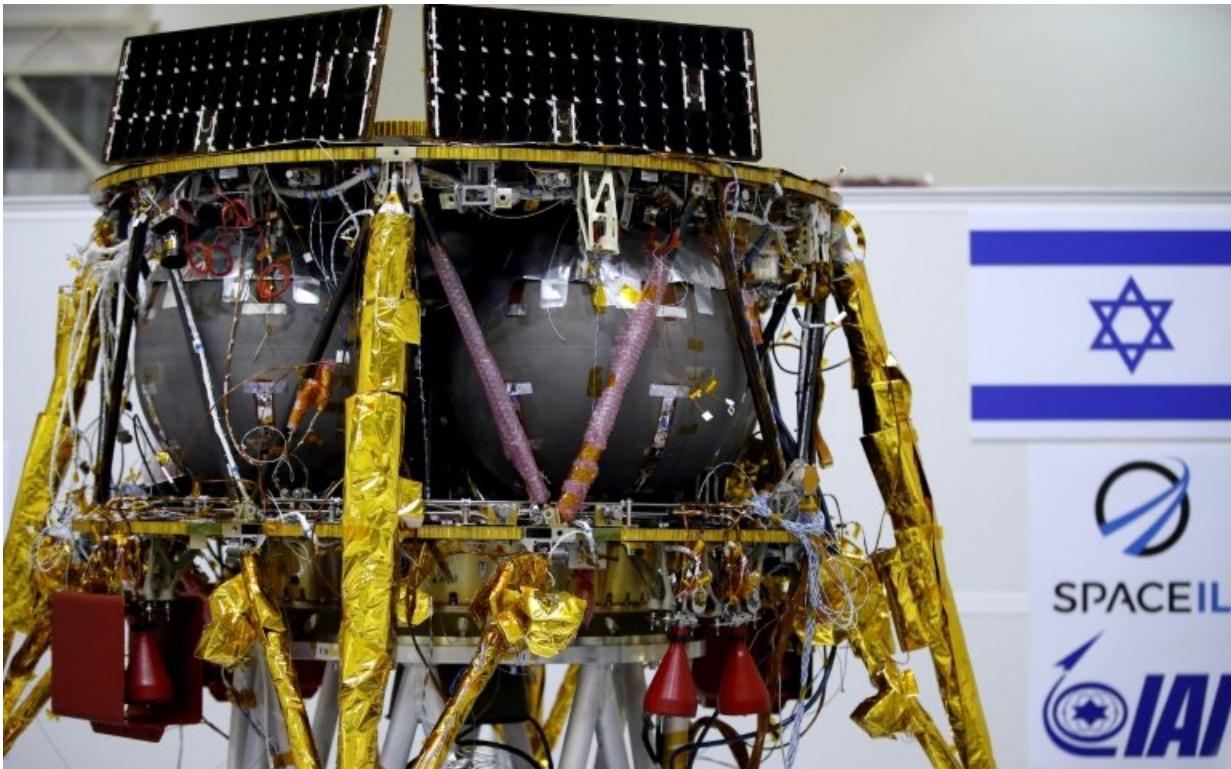


Israel's maiden moon launch delayed to 2019

October 10 2018



An Israeli Aerospace Industries space probe is displayed during a Tel Aviv press conference on July 10, 2018

The Israeli organisation behind the country's first mission to the moon on Wednesday announced a delay in the vessel's launch from December to early 2019.

SpaceIL said Elon Musk's SpaceX firm, whose rockets are set to carry

the [unmanned probe](#) into space, had informed it of "a delay of a number of weeks to the beginning of 2019."

SpaceIL stressed that the delay was SpaceX's decision, noting in a statement that tests on their craft, shaped like a pod and weighing some 585 kilogrammes (1,300 pounds), were proceeding successfully.

The craft was originally set to reach the moon on February 13, 2019, where its mission would include research on the moon's [magnetic field](#) and planting an Israeli flag.

SpaceIL did not give precise dates for the postponed launch and landing.

The ambitious project began as part of the Google Lunar XPrize, which in 2010 offered \$30 million (25 million euros) in awards to encourage scientists and entrepreneurs to come up with relatively low-cost moon missions.

Although the Google prize expired in March without a winner having reached the moon, Israel's team pledged to push forward.

The vessel will transmit data to the control centre at the Israel Aerospace Industries for two days before its systems shut down.

© 2018 AFP

Citation: Israel's maiden moon launch delayed to 2019 (2018, October 10) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-10-israel-maiden-moon.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.