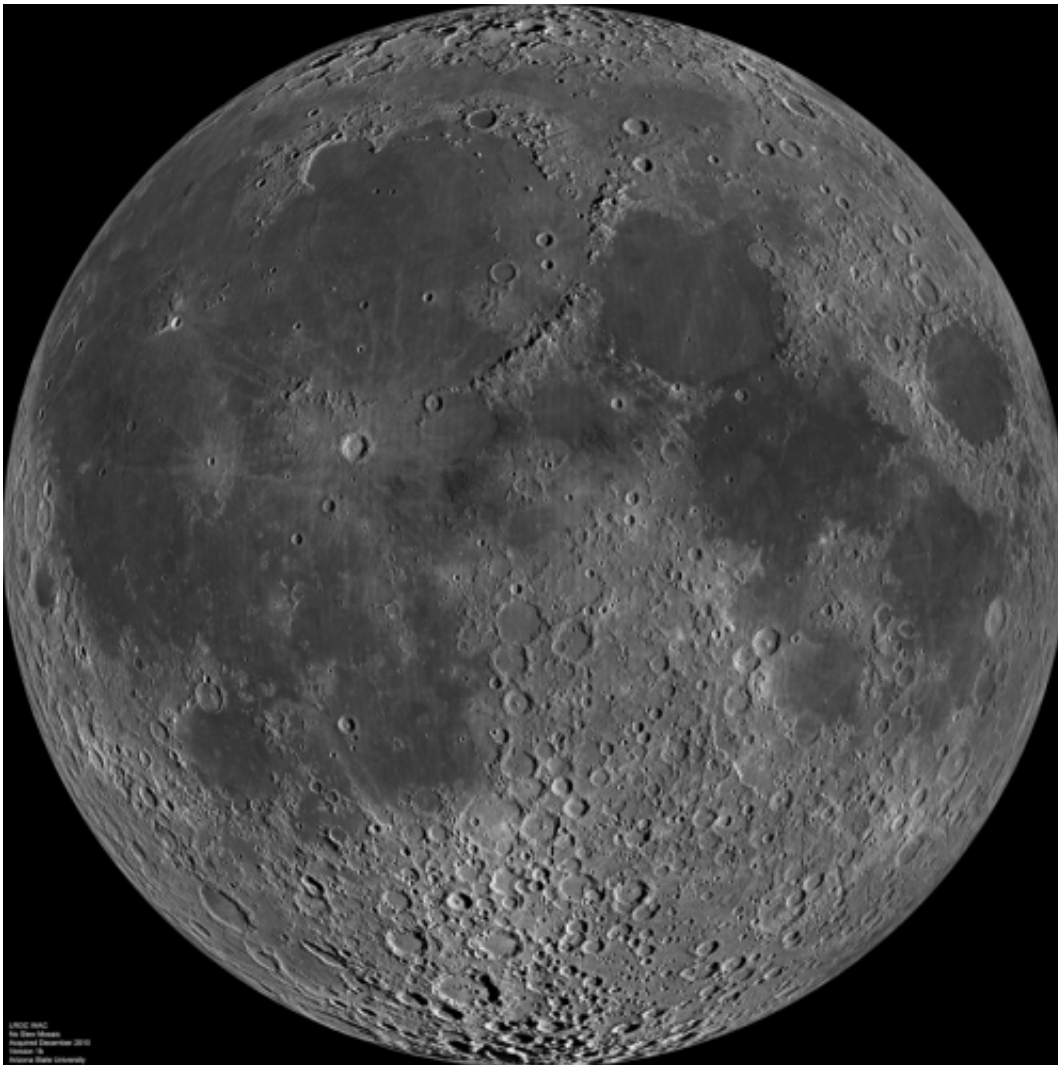


Israeli spacecraft hits first snag on lunar voyage

February 26 2019



This is a composite image of the lunar nearside taken by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter in June 2009, note the presence of dark areas of maria on this side of the moon. Credit: NASA

An Israeli spacecraft that blasted off last week for the country's first attempted lunar landing has encountered a technical glitch on its voyage to the moon.

Engineers at the nonprofit SpaceIL said Tuesday that the on-board computer system unexpectedly reset, canceling a maneuver that would keep the small spacecraft, called Beresheet, on track for its April landing. The team says it is examining the data to understand what happened.

On its winding journey, Beresheet is to slingshot around the Earth at least six times. If the mission succeeds, it will be the first privately funded [lunar landing](#). It will also be a major accomplishment for Israel, which seeks to become the fourth nation to reach the [lunar surface](#), after the U.S., Russia and China.

© 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Israeli spacecraft hits first snag on lunar voyage (2019, February 26) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-02-israeli-spacecraft-snag-lunar-voyage.html>

<p>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.</p>
--