

Russia's space agency head vows to continue Moon race

August 21 2023



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

The chief of the Russian space agency Roscosmos on Monday advocated for Russia to stay in the lunar race, a day after announcing its mission had crashed.

"In no case should the lunar program be interrupted, that would be the worst decision," Yuri Borisov said in an interview on television.

The Luna-25 [mission](#) was meant to mark Moscow's return to independent Moon exploration in the face of financial troubles and corruption scandals and growing isolation from the West.

But on Sunday, Roscosmos announced the probe had crashed during pre-landing manoeuvres.

"Interrupting the lunar program for almost 50 years is the main reason for the failure" of Luna-25, Borisov said.

"The invaluable experience that our predecessors accumulated in the 1960s and 1970s was practically lost" during the interruption of the program, he added.

Borisov explained the crash was due to an issue with the spacecraft's correction engine.

The engine supposed to put the spacecraft into pre-landing orbit "worked for 127 instead of the planned 84 seconds. This was the main cause of the probe's [crash](#)," Borisov explained.

A special commission has begun looking into the exact causes of the incident, Borisov also said.

Moscow last landed a probe—Luna-24—on the Moon in 1976, before shifting away from [lunar exploration](#) in favor of missions to Venus and building the Mir space station.

Citation: Russia's space agency head vows to continue Moon race (2023, August 21) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-08-russia-space-agency-vows-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.