

# Artemis IV: Gateway gadget fuels deep space dining

September 5 2024



A prototype of the Mini Potable Water Dispenser, currently in development at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, is displayed alongside various food pouches during a demonstration at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Credit: NASA/David DeHoyos

NASA engineers are working hard to ensure no astronaut goes hungry on the Artemis IV mission.

When international teams of astronauts live on Gateway, humanity's first space station to orbit the moon, they'll need innovative gadgets like the Mini Potable Water Dispenser.

Vaguely resembling a toy water soaker, it manually dispenses water for hygiene bags, to rehydrate food, or simply to drink. It is designed to be compact, lightweight, portable and manual, making it ideal for Gateway's relatively [small size](#) and [remote location](#) compared to the International Space Station closer to Earth.



An engineer demonstrates the use of the Mini Potable Water Dispenser by rehydrating a food pouch during a testing session at Johnson Space Center on

June 6, 2024. This compact, lightweight dispenser is designed to help astronauts prepare meals in deep space. Credit: NASA

The team at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama leading the development of the dispenser understands that when it comes to deep space cuisine, the food astronauts eat is so much more than just fuel to keep them alive.

"Food doesn't just provide body nourishment but also soul nourishment," said Shaun Glasgow, project manager at Marshall. "So ultimately, this [device](#) will help provide that little piece of soul nourishment. After a long day, the crew can float back and enjoy some pasta or scrambled eggs, a small sense of normalcy in a place far from home."

As NASA continues to innovate and push the boundaries of deep space exploration, devices like the compact, lightweight dispenser demonstrate a blend of practicality and ingenuity that will help humanity chart its path to the moon, Mars, and beyond.

Provided by NASA

Citation: Artemis IV: Gateway gadget fuels deep space dining (2024, September 5) retrieved 6 September 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2024-09-artemis-iv-gateway-gadget-fuels.html>

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