

Taiwan to make lunar lander for NASA moon-mining mission

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"Should the Resource Prospector prove to be successful, the moon could be used as a base for space journeys into Mars," Han said.

It is the first time Taiwan has built a [lunar lander](#).

NASA is due to launch the moon-mining mission early in the 2020s.

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US space agency NASA is leading the first ever moon-mining project, which is called Resource Prospector

Taiwan is building a \$47 million lunar lander as part of the first ever moon-mining project, officials said Monday.

The lander, which the island's Chung-shan Institute of Science and Technology will have to make by October 2018, will carry a rover and touch down on the moon's surface after a three-day journey from Earth.

US space agency NASA is leading the project, which is called Resource Prospector and aims to be the first mining expedition on another world.

The rover is designed to excavate hydrogen, oxygen and water from the moon, NASA says on its website.

"To be honest, the schedule is pressing," Han Kuo-chang, the head of CSIST's international cooperation programme, told AFP, adding that the US would supply the [rover](#) and the lander's descent propulsion system.

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