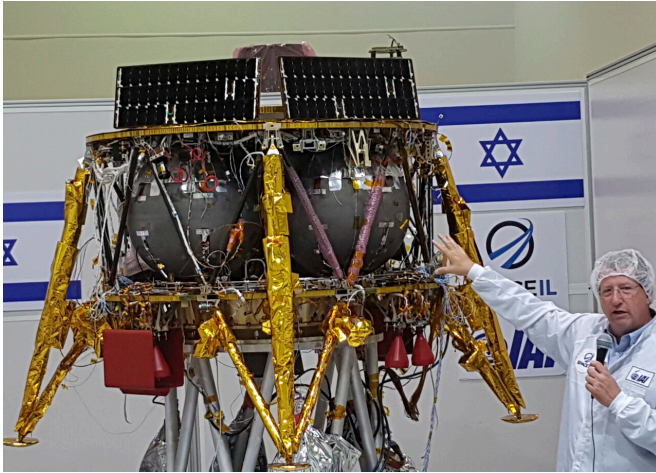


# Israel's SpacEL secures funds for new lunar mission

12 July 2021, by Jack Jeffery



In this July 10, 2018 file photo, Opher Doron, general manager of Israel Aerospace Industries' space division, speaks beside the SpacEL lunar module, during a press tour of their facility near Tel Aviv, Israel. SpacEL, the nonprofit Israeli initiative whose spacecraft crashed on the moon two years ago, said Sunday, July 11, 2021 that it has secured \$70 million in funding to make a second attempt at a lunar landing. Credit: AP Photo/Ilan Ben Zion, File

SpacEL, the nonprofit Israeli initiative whose spacecraft crashed on the moon two years ago, said Sunday that it has secured \$70 million in funding to make a second attempt at a lunar landing.

SpacEL said the new pledges means that it has raised almost all of the \$100 million it estimates is needed for the [mission](#) to meet its 2024 launch target.

SpacEL said the funding would come from South African-Israeli billionaire Morris Kahn, who bankrolled much of the [first mission](#), French-Israeli billionaire Patrick Drahi and South African philanthropist Martin Moshal, co-founder of venture capital firm Entree Capital.

The first "Beresheet," or "Genesis" spacecraft, built by SpacEL and state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries, crashed into the [moon](#) moments before touchdown in April 2019, falling short in its attempt to become the first privately funded [lunar landing](#).

According to the Davidson Institute, a branch of the Weizmann Institute of Science research university in Israel, the spacecraft suffered a string of technical malfunctions. That included damage to the star trackers, a type of navigation tool, failure of computer systems and [engine failure](#).

The new mission, to be called Beresheet 2, was first announced in late 2020 and plans to set new global space records through a double landing on the moon and the installment of the lightest ever moon landers, each weighing 60 kg (132 pounds) without fuel.

It will be composed of three [spacecraft](#)—an orbiter and two landers—with the mission hoping to follow China in becoming only the second to successfully land on the far side of the moon.

The orbiter, known as the mothership, is set to remain in space for years, serving as a platform for educational science activities through a remote connection that allows students from around the world to participate in deep-space research.

"The Beresheet project is my life's mission, so I decided to take it up again. I plan to do everything that is within my power to take Israel back to the moon, this time for a historic double landing," said Kahn, who is chairman of SpacEL.

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