



Letter from the Editor

The excitement just keeps on growing! No sooner did we have the first uncrewed landing on the far side of the Moon by China than Israel launched the first privately funded spacecraft to head for a lunar touchdown. Then, NASA boss Jim Bridenstine advised Congress that its flagship rocket, the Space Launch System, may not be ready to launch Orion in 2020 as planned, while calling on commercial providers to step up and fly the mission to fast-track humans back on the Moon in 2028 (page 2).

Not fast enough it seems. Vice President Mike Pence has now delivered a message from the Trump White House ordering NASA to get a woman on the Moon by 2024! Nobody seems to have told the President that this is virtually impossible. Or is it? Watch this space.

Meanwhile, we reflect on the feedback from the Apollo programme and look again at the Apollo 10 mission, 50 years ago, that pioneered the route Moon-landing astronauts would take for the next three years. It all seems that much more relevant now, with concerted efforts to resume the exploration of the Moon with humans.

David Baker

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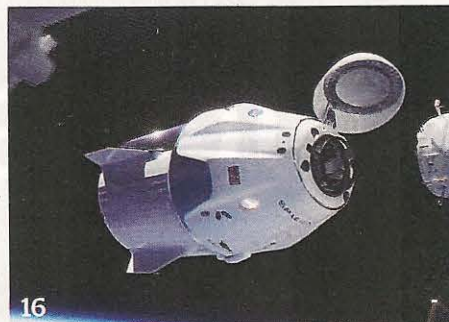
Nick Spall FBIS looks at the technological and inspirational legacy of the Apollo Moon shots and finds value in the money spent.

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David Baker recalls events 50 years ago when three astronauts got closer to the Moon than ever before and yet left the final descent to glory to the next mission in line, clearing the way for the first landing.

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Using a wide range of commercial providers, NASA is building a roadmap to the Moon with landers, space tugs and spacecraft for taking humans back to the surface by 2028.



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The British Interplanetary Society promotes the exploration and use of space for the benefit of humanity, connecting people to create, educate and inspire, and advance knowledge in all aspects of astronautics.

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