



Rome - 23-Oct-05

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have the pleasure to invite you to the Washington DC Workshop of the International Conference:

**"Moon Base: a Challenge for Humanity"  
Washington DC Workshop  
'Jamestown on the Moon'**

to be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 2005 at the AAAS - Washington Academy of Sciences in Washington DC (USA).

In January 2004, the President of the United States G.W. Bush Jr. launched the idea of a major space programme oriented towards the human exploration of the solar system, using the Moon as a starting point. The Aldridge Commission report: "*A Journey to Inspire, Innovate and Discover*", recognised that this ambitious plan will significantly help the United States to protect its technological leadership economic vitality and security.

Italy, which in the past made courageous choices with regard to space (it was the third country, after the USSR and the USA to launch its own satellite) emphatically welcomed the prospect. What is more, we feel that it is also of major cultural importance, as a human presence outside the Earth is a crucial passage for all of mankind. And so a working group was set up in the *Solidarietà e Sviluppo* association, involving players from the sphere of industry, associations, institutions and research institutes to analyse the national capabilities and expertises with a view to participating in the realisation of a permanently manned lunar base.

It was on these premises that the **International Conference - Moon Base: a Challenge for Humanity** project was conceived, consisting of two *workshops*: the first of which was held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May 2005 in Venice while the second will be held in Washington DC on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The aim is an important and ambitious one: *to define the operative, programmatic and legal scenario in which to develop a bilateral USA-Italy agreement, aimed at the realisation and utilisation of a permanently manned Lunar Base.*

The event is aimed at all those players who operate in this field, and is an opportunity to verify the feasibility of the Moon Base programme and join the bilateral vision which is the keystone of the project, also on institutional levels, so that through discussions with the technical-scientific community, it can be possible to incorporate the programmatic content, and assess the opportunity which is being offered.

The **Venice Congress** was a starting point for the implementation of this project. Its main function was that of defining all the issues related to the realisation of a complex programme such as that of a human mission on the Moon, rightly considered as Humanity's newest adventure. The event was also an opportunity to underscore the political wish in Italy and in the United States to bring bilateral cooperation to evolve also in the context of Human Exploration, receiving, among other things, important recognition at the highest levels of Italian and American institutions. All information regarding the event, including the proceedings of the congress in multi-media format, are available to the public on the official site of the workshop: [www.moonbase-italia.org](http://www.moonbase-italia.org).



The **Washington Congress** will be the natural next step, focused in defining the guide lines of a common US and Italian vision within which answers can be supplied to the questions raised in Venice, in particular by **proposing** methods of solutions to the critical points on the programme, which is to say by verifying the feasibility of the project; **defining** the possible users of the resources for scientific and technological ends; **identifying** the possible technological advantages, in terms of the products and/or services, derived from the inevitable spin-offs generated by so ambitious and far-reaching programme; **discussing** the legal and diplomatic aspects which could guarantee the involvement of the international community (in the first place the ISS community), so as to arrive at an open and coordinated participation.

With the aim of achieving these goals the preparation of the congress has been provided by the setting-up of five working groups, whose final reports will be the topics of the **Five Sessions** in which the Congress is divided:

- n **ENABLING LONG DURATION HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION**
- n **HARNESSING THE MOON'S RESOURCES**
- n **OBJECTIVES/TARGETS/OUTCOMES OF THE MOON BASE**
- n **PREPARING FOR THE MOON BASE**
- n **MANAGING THE LUNAR FRONTIER**

Each session consists of presentations from invited speakers. The **Round Table**, scheduled in the second day with the participation of representatives at the highest levels from the political, industrial and scientific worlds, is intended to provide the conditions and requirements of the stakeholders to start the Moon Base Program. All the contributions and the presentations of the invited speakers will be collected and published in the ICMB Proceedings. These documents will be shared with the interested public via the Conference website immediately after the Workshop.

The Washington Congress is backed by the Italian government (the Presidency of the Council of Ministers), by the Italian Embassy in the United States and by the American government (the State Department).

The number of attendees will be limited by available space, so if you plan to attend please respond soon. If you would like to participate, please send an official response via e-mail to the following address: [secretariat@moonbase-usa.org](mailto:secretariat@moonbase-usa.org). For any further information, please contact the Organizing Secretary at the same address and visit the Official Website [www.moonbase-usa.org](http://www.moonbase-usa.org), where all the Organization references and the Releases of the Congress Programme will be shortly available.

Hope to see you in Washington DC.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Franco Mazzuca', written over a white rectangular background.

Franco Mazzuca  
(President "Solidarietà e Sviluppo")