Outcome of the 1st Silicon Valley Workshop on Lunar Commercialization to Support a Permanent Human Settlement on the Surface of the Moon

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On July 19, 2016, Fifty Silicon Valley innovators, space leaders, VCs, and designers gathered at the Rainbow Mansion in Cupertino, California to discuss the future of lunar commercialization and create a Moon Village consortium with tangible next steps.
“I’m done with roadmaps”

“Action is more important than inspiration, the only way to inspire people is by going there”

“It’s time to talk specifics - here is our plan”

“If you become self sustainable you are also economically self sustainable”

“It’s not about New Space vs “Old” Space - we have the same goal”

“Space business, not space enthusiasts”

“The Transportation Hub to the Solar System” and “Low-Cost Moon Camping”

“A new way of doing things not only for the moon but for other destination too”
There is a lot of appetite to harness

- The workshop showed that there is private funding and interest that might fit with a low cost approach to the Moon Village.
- But getting this to crystalize into a private lunar activity that is credible is hard because most discussions of the economics of the Moon are currently in terms of payoff decades away.
- VCs indicated that there is an urgent need to focus discussions on realistic near-term payoffs (2 - 5 years).
Tools for co-creating the Moon Village

- A framework for participation in the Moon Village needs to be designed but designing for participation is different than designing for use. This is a fundamental shift – one that requires a new set of values.
- Today, instant connectivity, online social networks, algorithms, crowdsourcing, and big data can help us improve our existing cooperative institutions.
- More significantly, these technologies invite us to create conditions that can produce change and help us reimagine completely the ways in which we organize and cooperate in space exploration.
A New Framework for Participation

- A Framework for Participation of Private, Public, Investors, and Philanthropists should be articulated to prepare for novel, low-cost and agile programs for space settlement and allow for space agencies, donors, and commercial space to create an integrated, mutually reinforcing strategy.

- Historically, settlement architectures have been presented as static documents that represent a snapshot of thinking and capabilities at the time of its release. These architectures cannot evolve over time to incorporate new developments, preventing them from being a functional resource.

- An open, modular, and dynamic online repository of key components required for Lunar settlement needs to be created, structured in a wiki-like format such that different solution sets can be explored, opportunities and gaps identified, and to support public understanding and dialog.
A new way of doing things not only for the Moon but for other destinations too

- The Moon Village’s governance might create powerful innovations useful back on Earth.
- What if we approach the Moon Village as a way of experimenting with and prototyping international collaboration methods, consensus building, finance, and creativity?
- The Moon Village is a pivotal setting for demonstrating human, technology, institutional and financial cooperation for doing things not only on the Moon, but as precedent for other destinations on Earth and in space.
Bias towards action

We cannot any longer just create policy papers and exploration roadmaps.

- The group unanimously agreed to have bias towards action, prototyping and focus efforts on building real change for the space sector.
- We need to design legal instruments and financial transaction vehicles that shift established behaviors and exploration roadmap recommendations.
- Efforts will also be made to demonstrate credibility and start a dialogue between Newspace and ISECG.
Two simultaneous and parallel challenges

- The design of the engineering artifact in question: the Moon Village infrastructure and its key technical and scientific elements;
- The design of the intervention that brings it to life: the international partnership and the global movement of Moon Village leaders.
How might we leverage transparency to create a public discourse and global tribal identity around the idea of the Moon Village, increasing public support, and creating a feedback loop to build a sense of urgency and accountability for space leaders?
The Global Moon Village Association

Key to bringing the Moon Village vision to life is designing tools, conversations, experiences, and opportunities that can help both the space sector and the policy makers to embrace and measure investments in innovation and change.

MVA should not be seen as another space fan or advocacy organization, but as professionally functioning system for realizing Moon Village concept with bias towards action and prototyping.
The Global Moon Village Association

Over the next year, we aim to host a series of follow-up, invitation-only workshops made up of leading thinkers, who come together to provide interdisciplinary expertise and drive near to mid-term investments and lunar flight content.

All activities shall converge towards the organization of an MVA founding workshop at Summer 2017 with the endorsement of at least one space agency.
“Going to the moon required romantic madness in order to believe that it could be done, and practical genius to make it happen. This is a rare and complicated psychological makeup, and one which has its dark side. Landing on the moon is still the single greatest achievement in history, and one dedicated to “all mankind.” Yet it was also an act of single-minded determination and it took wild, dedicated individuals to achieve it. As the sociologist William Bainbridge observed. Not the public will, but private fanaticism drove men to the moon.”

- Stranger Than We Can Imagine
Will you help us make a dent in the Universe?