

International Space University Alumni Land On The Moon

Strasbourg, France: On 11th April 2019 the first privately-funded spacecraft is scheduled to land on the Moon. Yonatan Weintraub an alumnus of the International Space University ISU and recipient of the Ilan Ramon Scholarship, is one of the three co-founders of Spacell behind this historic achievement.

Yonatan Weintraub took ISU's Space Studies Program in 2009 at NASA Ames Research Center, California, USA. He said: *"I was fascinated by space since I was a kid and I liked building amateur rockets and spacecraft models. Trained as a space engineer, I knew that only ISU would provide me with the interdisciplinary skills and network necessary to become an entrepreneur. I then co-founded Spacell, a competitor in the Google Lunar XPRIZE. Today's landing will be the culmination of a decade of effort that globally nearly everyone argued was an impossible mission."*



Credits: ISU & XPRIZE – from left to right – Peter H. Diamandis, Yonatan Weintraub, Yariv Bash

Peter H. Diamandis, MD, ISU co-founder and XPRIZE Chairman added: *"I am so proud that ISU alumni are leading the Spacell lunar landing. This is why we started the International Space University three decades ago, to inspire, guide and incentivize the next generation of leaders. Congratulations on getting into an orbit and best of luck on your landing!"*

In addition, Yonatan is an advocate of STEM. He teaches space engineering to high school students. He thinks it is extremely important to inspire the next generation of space explorers. With such a project as the “Beresheet” lunar lander he sure will!

Yonatan Winetraub ends: *“I am blown away by the widespread support of the ISU community and thousands of people that help turn this dream into a reality. ISU has offered me the opportunity to meet new partners, exchange ideas and knowhow with them. This inspiration was largely made possible by the Ilan Ramon Project for Innovation, Entrepreneurism and Space at the International Space University and for that I am eternally grateful.”*

Co-founder of the Scholarship Project, Michael Potter, himself an alumnus of the International Space University remarked: *“Ilan Ramon inspired an entire nation, and it is only fitting that his scholarship has sparked not only such a historic achievement for Israel, but has energized the next generation to use their talents to reach the stars.”*

ISU President, Juan de Dalmau said: *“ISU is a place where a good idea, when it is shared with colleagues, can become a reality. All the recent initiatives at ISU, the Rhinespace Booster or ESA BIC incubator have one common goal: help ISU alumni to be successful in the New Space economy. We see this every day with alumni becoming leaders in research and especially entrepreneurship. Yonatan is a perfect example. We wish him the best of luck.”*

The landing is scheduled on Thursday 11 April 2019 between 18.30-19.30 UTC / 20.30 – 21.30 CET. [Watch live!](#)

Spacell is an Israeli organization, established in 2011, that was competing in the Google Lunar X Prize (GLXP) contest to land a spacecraft on the Moon. Spacell successfully launched its Beresheet lander on 22 February 2019 at 0145 UTC; it entered lunar orbit on 4 April at 1418 UTC. The Beresheet mission includes plans to measure the Moon's local magnetic field, carries a laser retroreflector, and a digital “time capsule”. Beresheet is the first Israeli spacecraft to travel beyond Earth's orbit and if successful, would be the first private lander on the Moon. Israel would also become the fourth country, after the Soviet Union, the United States, and China, to land a spacecraft on the Moon. The Spacell team was founded as a nonprofit organization wishing to promote scientific and technological education in Israel.[9] Its total budget for the mission is estimated at US\$95 million, provided by Israeli billionaire Morris Kahn and other philanthropists, as well as the Israel Space Agency (ISA).

The **International Space University**, founded in 1987 in Massachusetts, US and now headquartered in Strasbourg, France, is the world's premier international space education institution. It is supported by major space agencies and aerospace organizations from around the world. The graduate level programs offered by ISU are dedicated to promoting international, interdisciplinary and intercultural cooperation in space activities. ISU offers the Master of Science in Space Studies program at its Central Campus in Strasbourg. Since the summer of 1988, ISU also conducts the highly acclaimed two-month Space Studies Program at different host institutions in locations spanning the globe and Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program. ISU programs are delivered by over 100 ISU faculty members in concert with invited industry and agency experts from institutions around the world. Since its founding, 30 years ago, more than 4600 students from over 100 countries graduated from ISU. www.isunet.edu