

# ICESIP: Internal Combustion Engine Solar Independent Propulsion

for Lunar Polar  
Exploration Rovers (LPERs)



# The very idea is not crazy:

## 1930's-inspired flathead for Centaur 3<sup>rd</sup> stage invented by United Launch Alliance (ULA)





# Why ICESIP?

## #1 Reason:

Need for extended operations within permanently shaded regions (PSRs) of Moon

2. Nukes are super-expensive

3. The interesting craters lack solar energy



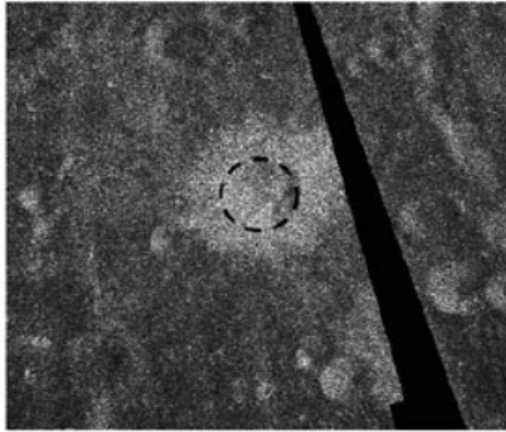
# What are the high value targets (HVTs)?

## A: the anomalous craters...

Main L



S1



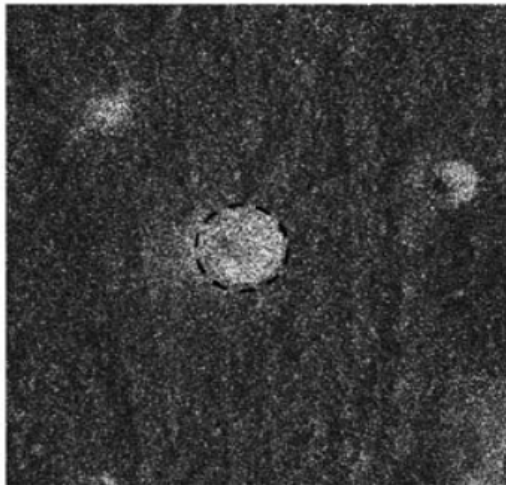
CPR



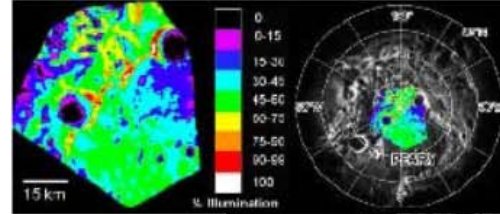
Rozhdestvensky N



S1



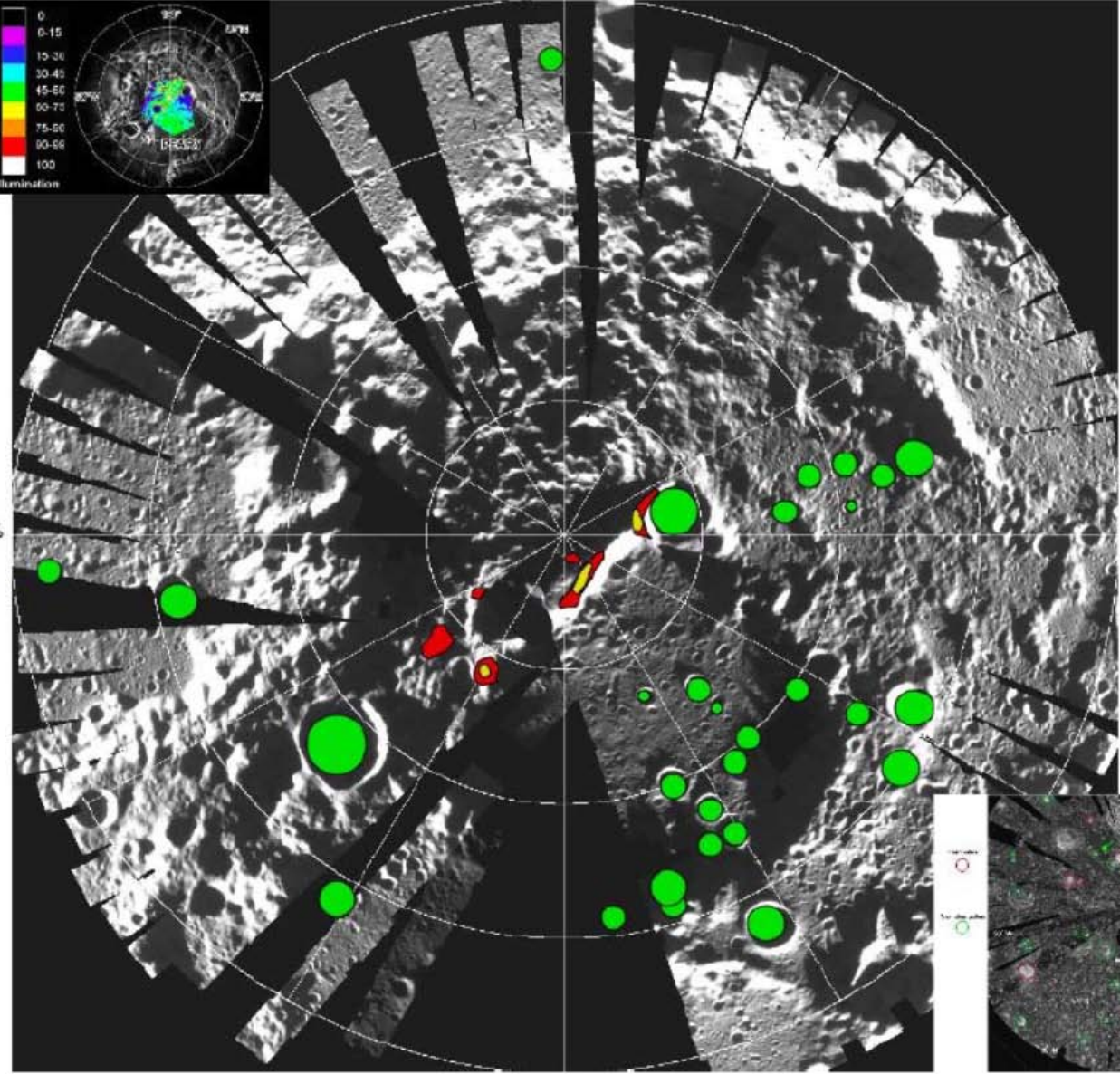
CPR



Illumination  
(summer)



High CPR  
crater fill  
(ice)



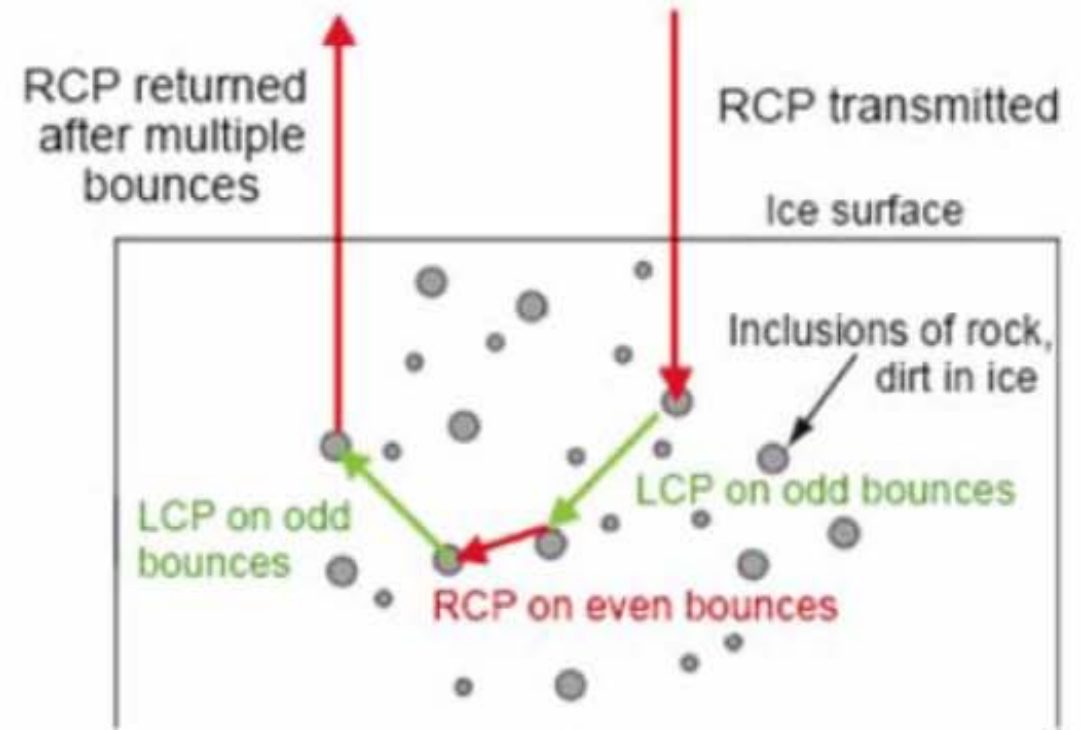
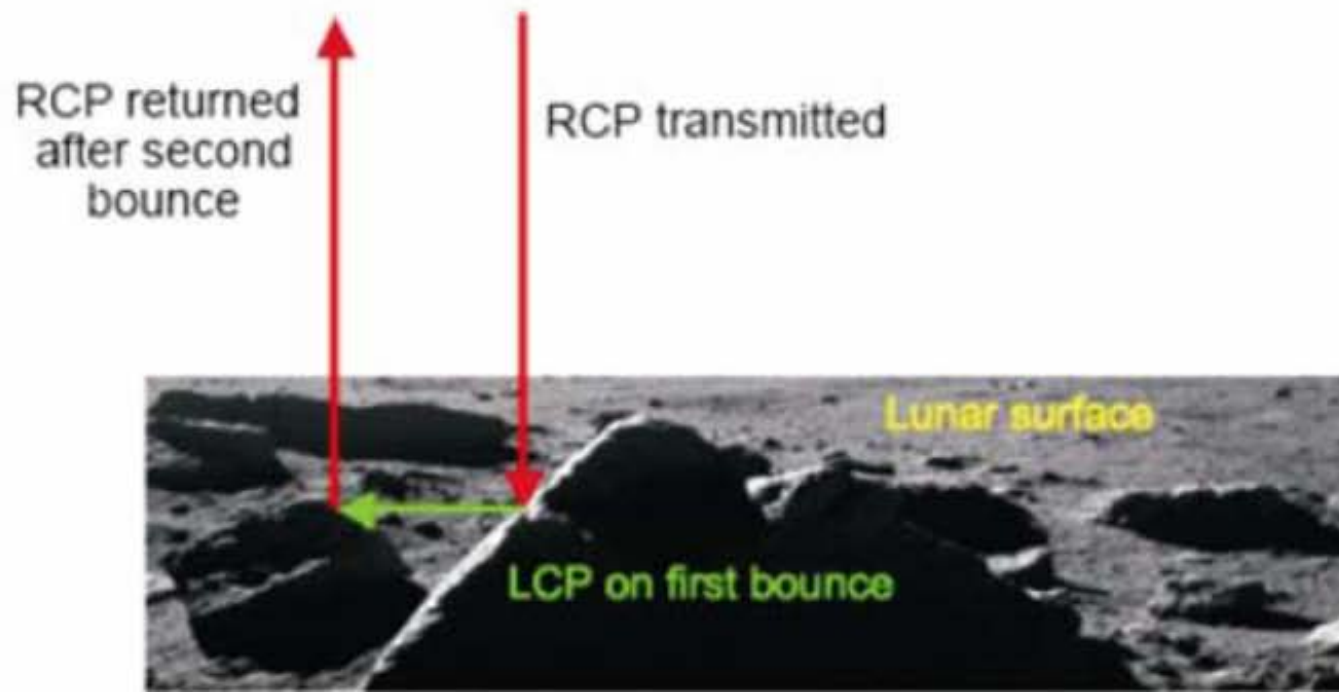


# Circular Polarization Ratio (CPR)

- ratio of same-sense to opposite sense circular polarization
- thought to mark “relatively pure” H<sub>2</sub>O ice

High CPR caused by surface roughness/scattering

High CPR caused by ice/volume scattering



# Properties of anomalous craters

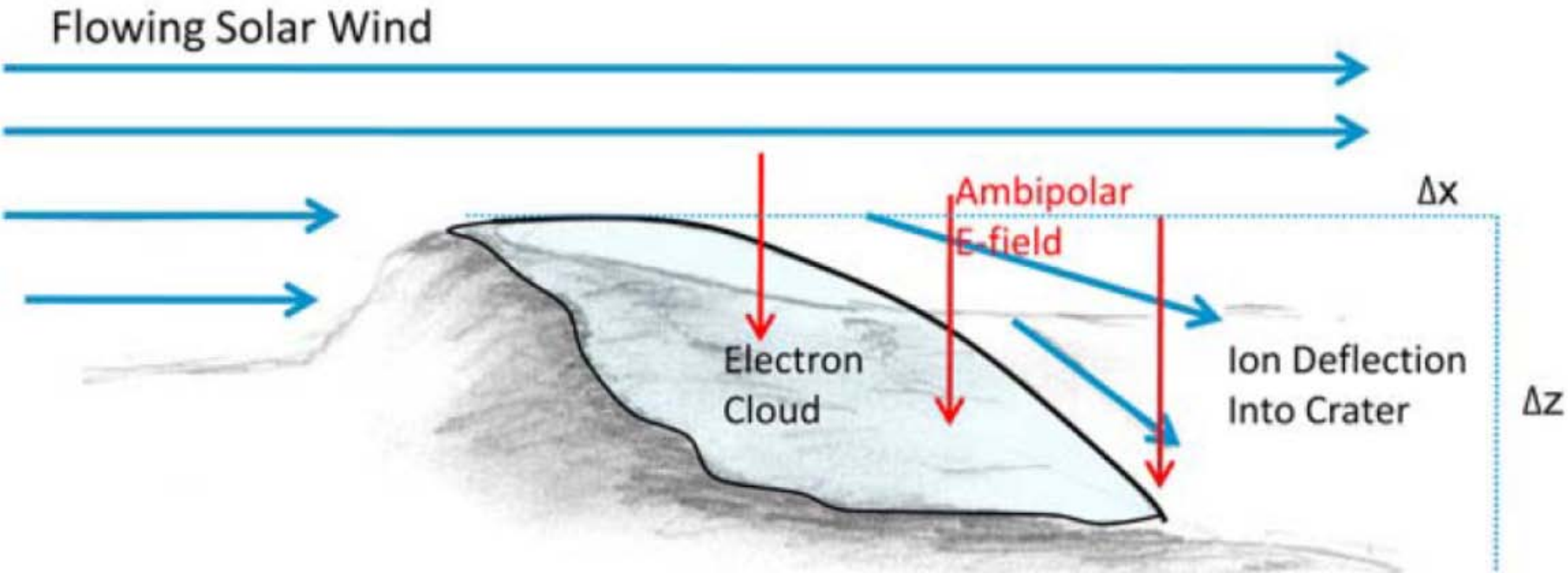
1. Extra cold temperatures ( $\sim 30^\circ\text{K}$ )
2. Would have higher  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  content
3. Ice of unknown texture or density
4. Small ( $< 20$  km) craters within craters
5. Craters tend to be steep sided ( $\sim 30^\circ$ )
6. Zones with low electrostatic activity
7. Possibility of electrostatic placer deposits



## 6. Effect of solar wind on lunar ice

$H^+$  ions will cause erosion of lunar ice

Small craters within craters avoid this effect

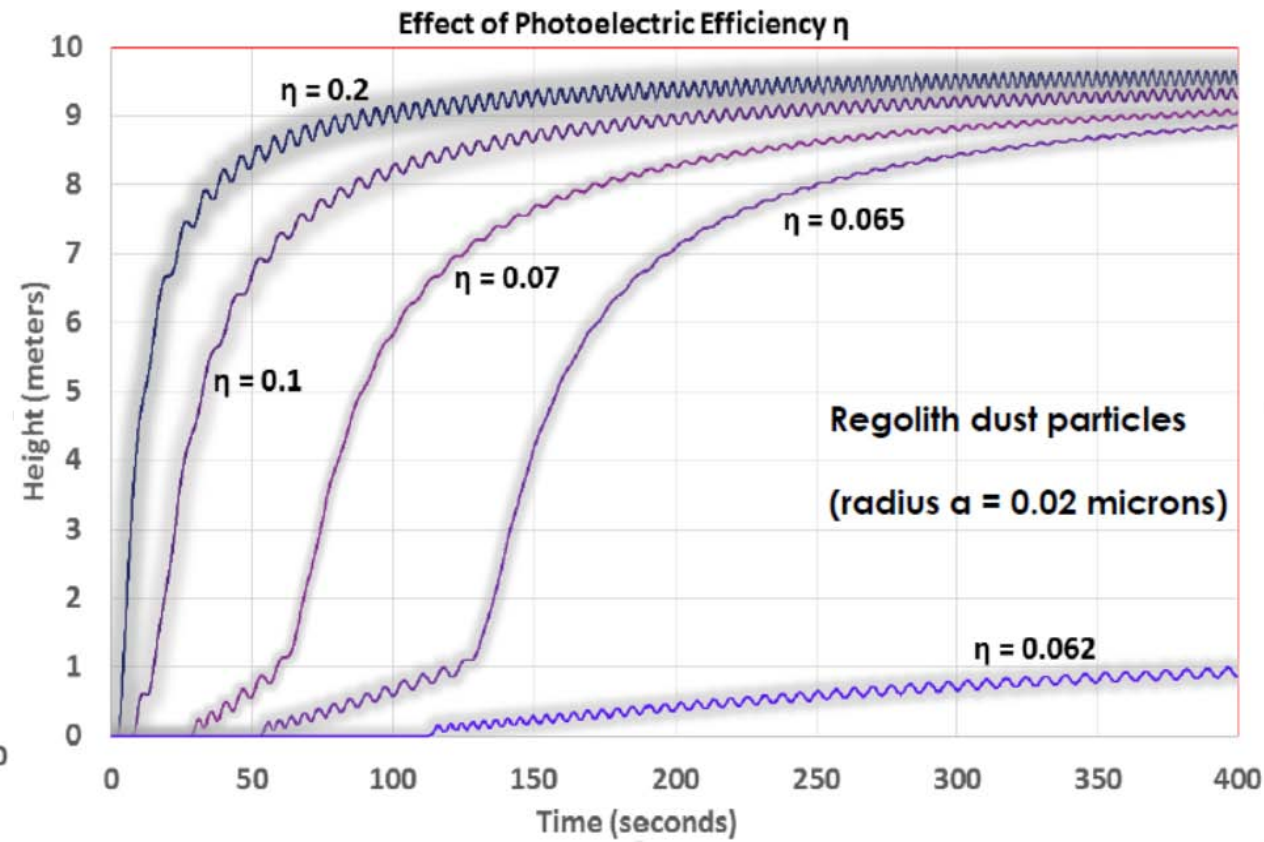
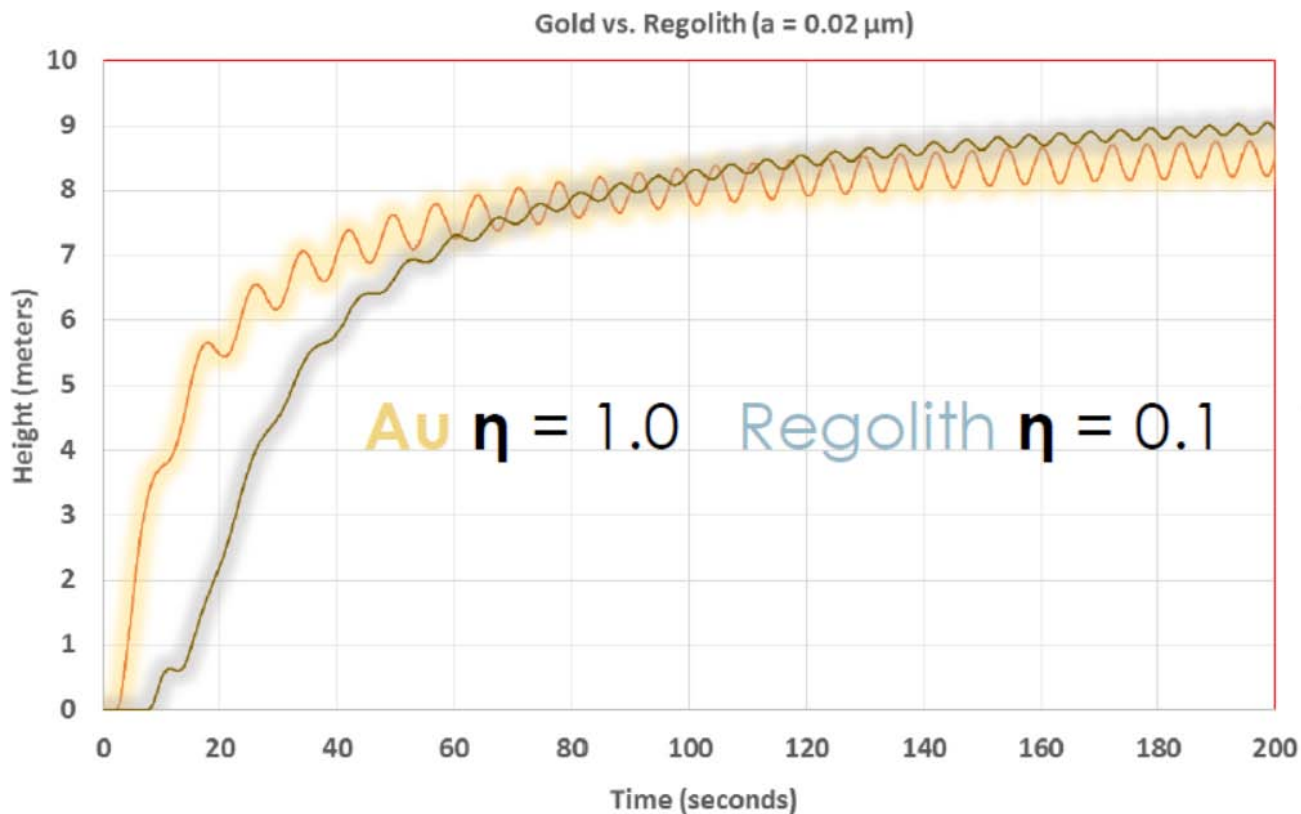


# Electrostatic placer deposits of gold?

LCROSS implies ~0.5% Au (5,000 g/t)

Electrostatic forces favor gold dust transport

Will accumulate within anomalous craters



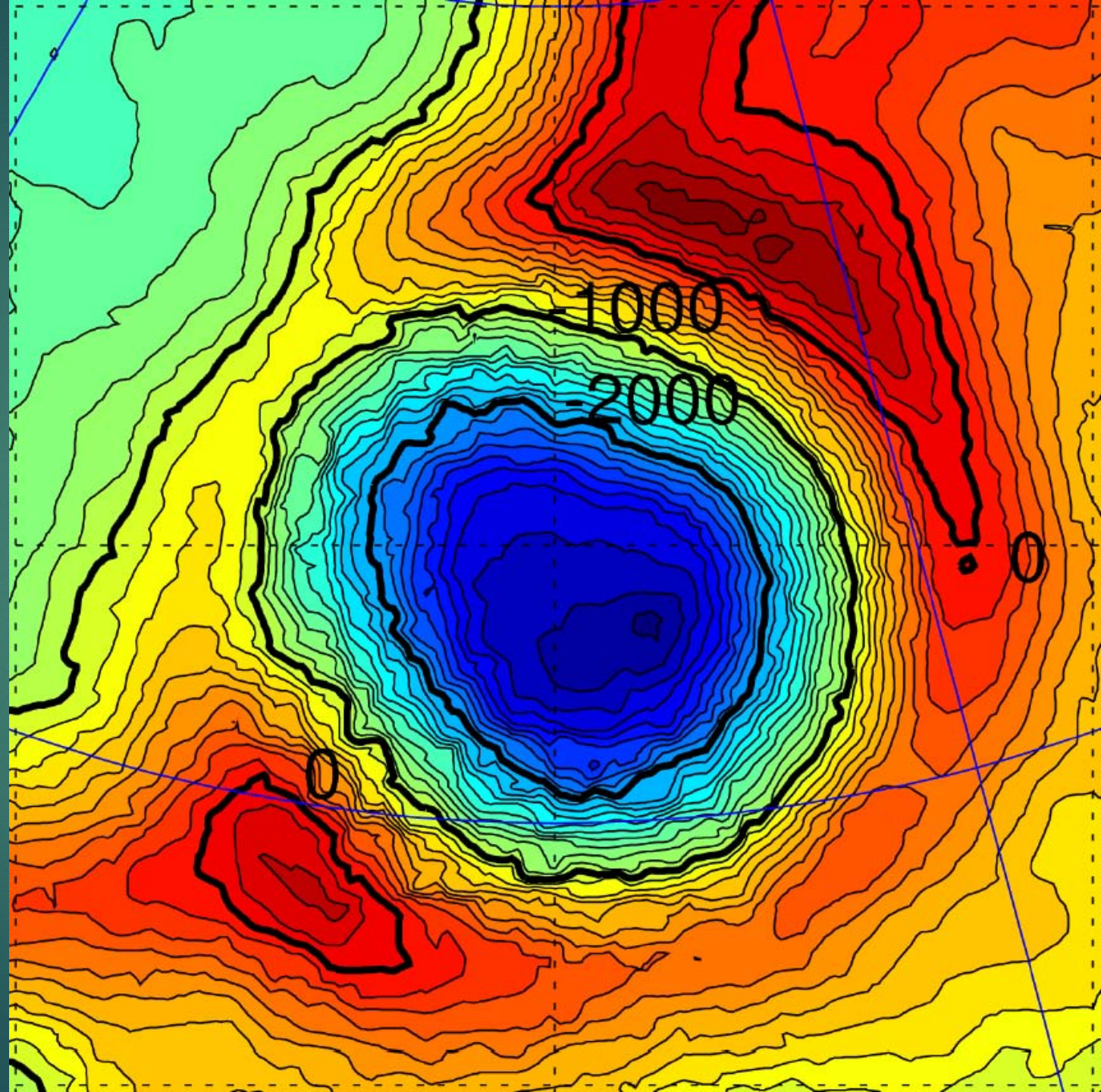


# Whipple Crater

30° average slopes

Impossible to  
explore with RPM

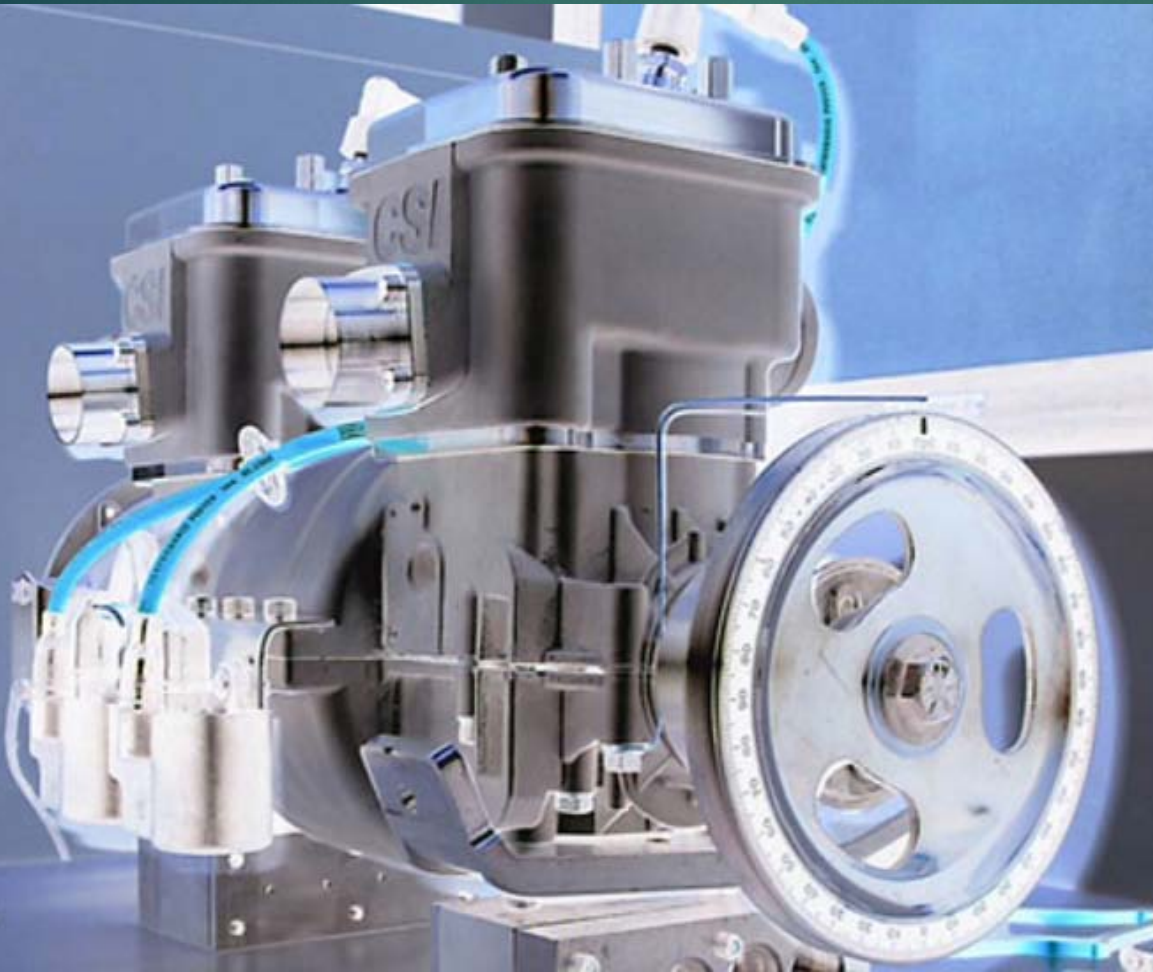
Would have to land  
in the middle





# What we propose: ICESIP

An ICE-electric hybrid powered by the  
SonicFlow 2-cycle engine:



Burns no oil

High power density

40% TE

Fuel economy



# ICE-BOTE Trade Study

RPM-style rover:

100 kg total mass

30 kg propulsion mass budget

200 Watt average power

1000 Watt peak power





# Battery Only Design

Tesla Roadster

30Mass budget kg

5Margin

25Mass budget – Margin

25Total Battery Mass

6.00E+05Specific Energy (J/kg)

1.50E+07Total Energy

0.9Discharge efficiency

1.35E+07Net Energy available for system J

200Average Power (W = J/s)

67,500Time s

18.75Time hr

0.78Time day

Lithium Ion Battery

30Mass budget kg

5Margin

25Mass budget - Margin

25Total Battery Mass

2.00E+06Specific Energy (J/kg)

5.00E+07Total Energy

0.9Discharge efficiency

4.50E+07Net Energy available for system J

200Average Power (W = J/s)

225,000Time s

62.50Time hr

2.60Time day



# LH2/LO2 Design

ICE-hybrid vehicle LH2/LO2  
30 Total Mass budget (kg)  
5 Margin  
25 Actual mass budget (kg)  
0.186 Mass of ICE (kg)  
0.223 Mass of generator/starter (kg)  
0.409 Total mass ICE + generator kg  
500 Battery specific power (W/kg)  
1000 Peak Power (W)  
2 Battery Mass (kg Li-S)  
2.4 Total bat + ICE + generator (kg)  
22.6 Mass budget for tankage & propellant  
19.805 Mass of Propellant actually burned (kg)  
17.604 Mass LO2  
2.201 Mass of LH2  
12.0% LH2 boiloff fudge factor  
2.465 Total mass LH2  
20.069 Total propellant mass (kg)

550.139 moles of O2  
1100.278 moles of H2  
0.5 molar O2/H2  
1,141 Density of LO2 (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)  
70.85 Density of LH2 (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)  
0.01543 Volume of O2 (m<sup>3</sup>)  
0.03479 Volume of H2 (m<sup>3</sup>)  
50.2 Total Volume (L)  
13.3 Total Volume (gal)



# LH2/LO2 Design—Tankage

0.1544 Radius of O2 tank (m)

0.2025 Radius of H2 tank (m)

0.2997 Area of O2 tank (m<sup>2</sup>)

0.5153 Area of H2 tank (m<sup>2</sup>)

Liquid tank shell densities

0.9027 Inner tank: Al 2024-T81 (bi-grid) stiffened (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

2.1919 Outer tank: DRA 55% (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

3.09465 Total Tank unit weight (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

0.93 mass LO2 tank (kg)

1.59 Mass LH2 tank (kg)

2.52 Total Tankage kg

22.59 Mass of tankage + propellant

22.6 Tankage & Fuel Mass budget

100.002% (Tankage + Propellant) / Mass budget



# LH2/LO2 Design—Range Extension

285,800 H<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> molar Energy (J/mol H<sub>2</sub>O)  
1.59E+07 H<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> specific energy (J/kg)  
3.14E+08 Total stored energy J  
0.4 ICE thermal efficiency  
1.26E+08 Rotary energy  
0.9 Efficiency of generator  
1.13E+08 Energy produced by generator J  
0.9 Charge/discharge efficiency  
1.02E+08 Energy released by batteries  
200 average power  
509,424 time s  
141.5 time hr  
5.90 time days



# GH2/GO2 Design—Tankage

16.236 Mass of Propellant (kg)  
14.432 Mass O2  
1.804 Mass of H2  
451.000 moles of O2  
902.000 moles of H2  
0.5 O2/H2  
10,152 Pressure psi  
70,000,000 Pressure Pa  
0.0157028 Volume of O2 (m<sup>3</sup>)  
0.0314057 Volume of H2 (m<sup>3</sup>)  
47.1 Total Volume (L)  
12.4 Total Volume (gal)

0.1553 Radius of O2 tank (m)  
0.1957 Radius of H2 tank (m)  
0.3033 Area of O2 tank (m<sup>2</sup>)  
0.4814 Area of H2 tank (m<sup>2</sup>)  
2,700 Density of Al (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)  
3.00E-03 Thickness of tanks (m)  
9.10E-04 Volume of O2 tank shell (m<sup>3</sup>)  
1.44E-03 Volume of H2 tank shell (m<sup>3</sup>)  
2.46 mass of O2 tank  
3.90 Mass of H2 tank  
6.36 Total Tankage kg  
16.24 Mass of Propellant (kg)  
22.59 Mass of tankage + propellant  
22.6 Mass budget  
100.002% Budget – (tankage + Prop)



# GH2/GO2 Design—Range Extension

285,800 H<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> molar Energy (J/kg)  
1.59E+07 H<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> specific energy (J/kg)  
2.58E+08 Total stored energy J  
0.4 ICE thermal efficiency  
1.03E+08 Total work done by ICE  
0.9 Efficiency of generator  
9.28E+07 Energy produced by generator J  
0.9 Charge/discharge efficiency  
8.35E+07 Energy released by batteries  
200 average power  
417,622 time s  
116.0 time hr  
4.83 time days

LCH<sub>4</sub>/LO<sub>2</sub>  
comparable  
to GH<sub>2</sub>/GO<sub>2</sub>



# Other Considerations

- “Waste heat” = useful enthalpy
- 300 Watts available for heating LPER
- Can also be used for instruments like OVEN
- Battery-only designs must produce heat from electricity



- Flex fuel capability

- Residual propellants from the lander can further extend mission time

