

In 1969, Apollo 11 was the first crewed mission to land on the Moon. (UPI/Newscom/SIPA)



THE CONVERSATION | GORDON OSINSKI

NASA announces a big shakeup of the Artemis Moon program

La NASA annonce une refonte en profondeur du programme lunaire Artemis

Le mois dernier, la mission Artemis II a été effectuée avec succès. Pour la suite, la NASA a annoncé qu'Artemis III ne visera plus à envoyer d'humain sur la Lune. L'agence adoptera finalement une approche progressive avec des missions intermédiaires pour tester les technologies. L'objectif d'un alunissage habité est désormais repoussé à une mission ultérieure, potentiellement avec Artemis IV en 2028.

NASA has announced major changes to the Artemis program. The next mission, Artemis III, will now no longer land humans on the surface of the moon, but will instead feature a series of technology tests in Low Earth orbit. Artemis IV will then be the first human landing on the moon, sometime in 2028.

2. Recent delays to the Artemis II mission are a symptom of the challenges that have faced the entire Artemis program for years. Following an initial setback due to a liquid hydrogen leak encountered during a wet dress rehearsal on Feb. 3, further issues for Artemis II arose during the second wet dress rehearsal from Feb. 19 to 20. As a result, the launch was pushed in April.

3. This makes it over three years since the first Artemis mission. Such long gaps be-

1. **to land** ici, faire alunir / **to feature** ici, inclure / **Earth** ici, terrestre.

2. **delay** retard / **challenge** défi, difficulté / **to face** être confronté/se heurter à / **setback** revers, déconvenue / **leak** fuite / **wet dress rehearsal** test en conditions réelles visant à rodé les procédures et identifier d'éventuels problèmes, à travers le remplissage des réservoirs (**dress rehearsal** répétition générale) / **issue** problème, difficulté / **to arise, arose, arisen** survenir, apparaître / **launch** lancement, départ / **to push** ici, renvoyer.

3. **over** ici, plus de / **gap** écart /

tween missions limit the ability to refine systems quickly and mean that the same issues (for example, fuel leaks) keep recurring. With the loss of more than 4,000 employees — approximately 20 per cent of its workforce — in 2025, NASA is also dealing with significant workforce challenges, causing further strain to the Artemis program.

4. These challenges appear to have been recognized by NASA's new administrator, Jared Isaacman, who wrote in a recent social media post that "the days of NASA launching Moon rockets every 3 years are over." A big part of the plan involves standardizing the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket "upper stage" — this is the part of the rocket that propels the spacecraft from Low Earth orbit toward the moon.

5. There have been lots of news stories circulating since NASA's announcement about

ability capacité / **to refine** affiner, parfaire, perfectionner / **fuel** carburant / **to recur** revenir (régulièrement) / **workforce** main-d'œuvre / **to deal, dealt, dealt with** faire face à / **significant** important, de taille / **strain** pression.

4. **administrator** directeur / **rocket** fusée / **to be over** être derrière soi (fig.)/révolu / **to involve** ici, consister à / **to standardize** uniformiser, normaliser / **upper stage** ici, étage supérieur / **to propel** propulser, lancer / **spacecraft** vaisseau spatial.

the shake-up of the Artemis program, many of them referring to the "cancellation" of the Artemis III mission. This is not a fair or accurate representation of the new plans.

6. It's true that Artemis III will now not be the first human landing on the moon since Apollo 17 in 1972. Instead, the mission will launch the Orion crew capsule with astronauts on board into Low Earth orbit, where they will conduct in-space testing of critical

5. **to refer to** évoquer, faire allusion à / **cancellation** annulation / **fair** juste / **accurate** exact.

6. **crew** équipage / **on board** à bord / **to conduct** mener, effectuer / **critical** crucial, essentiel /



Différents degrés de comparaison :

it is advanced
it is more advanced
it is far more advanced (\$ 12)
(beaucoup plus avancé)

it is expensive
it is more expensive
it is much more expensive (beaucoup plus cher)

it is intense
it is more intense
it is considerably more intense (beaucoup plus intense)



A ÉCOUTER SUR LE COMPLÉMENT SONORE- SÉQUENCE CONVERSATION

Notre invité, le comédien voix off britannique **Michael Ashtiany**, nous entraîne à la découverte de l'infini de notre galaxie. Sa fascination pour l'espace est contagieuse !
CD audio ou téléchargement MP3 (sur abonnement)



The Artemis II crew inside the Orion spacecraft on their way back to Earth, April 7, 2026, from Space. (Nasa/Nasa/ZUMA/SIPA)

technologies, including life support, propulsion and communications systems.

7. While in orbit, it's also hoped that Orion will rendezvous and dock with one, or both, of the commercially developed lunar landers built by the companies SpaceX and Blue Origin. This makes sense as the original Artemis plan went from Artemis II straight to the surface without testing out these critical aspects of the mission.

A progressive and safer approach

8. The crew may also test the new spacesuits designed by Axiom Space, which is important because these suits haven't yet been worn for an actual space mission. This new plan, therefore, actually reduces the risks and increases the likelihood of a successful human mission to the surface of the moon in 2028 – Artemis IV instead of Artemis III.

9. The most exciting, and surprising, part of the recent announcement was that NASA will try for not just one, but two moon landings in 2028, and then a mission every year

life support appareils de maintien en vie.

7. **to rendezvous** se réunir, se retrouver / **to dock** être amarré, arrimé / **lander** module d'atterrissage (d'alunissage) / **straight** directement / **to test out** tester, mettre à l'épreuve.

8. **spacesuit** combinaison spatiale / **to design** concevoir / **yet** (pas) encore / **to wear, wore, worn** porter / **actual** réel, véritable / **therefore** par conséquent, ainsi / **actually** en fait, en réalité / **likelihood** probabilité.

9. **exciting** enthousiasmant, (très) prometteur /

thereafter. Suddenly, this is becoming much more like the Apollo program, which launched 11 crewed missions in four years.

10. There was a notable absence in NASA's latest announcements - a mention of the Lunar Gateway. This is the small space station that will orbit the moon as part of the Artemis program. In the original plans, the second lunar landing, Artemis IV, was meant to go to the surface of the moon via the Lunar Gateway.

11. Lunar Gateway is very important to Canada because it will be home to Canadarm3. As the

thereafter après cela, par la suite / **crewed** habité.

10. **notable** remarquable, visible / **announcement** annonce / **gateway** porte, passage, entrée / **to be meant to** être censé, avoir pour vocation de.

11. **to be home to** accueillir, abriter, compter /

50 years later

Returning to the Moon with **Artemis II** took over 50 years due to technical challenges, long development of new spacecraft, and shifting political priorities and funding. Programs like Constellation were canceled or restructured, while Earth-focused missions like the shuttle and ISS kept NASA active. Artemis now marks the culmination of decades of effort to resume human lunar exploration.

to shift changer, modifier / **funding** financement / **shuttle** navette / **ISS = International Space Station** / **culmination** point culminant, aboutissement / **to resume** reprendre.

name might suggest, Canadarm3 is Canada's next-generation robotic arm and is a \$2-billion contribution to the Artemis program.

12. It builds on Canada's robotics heritage from Canadarm and Canadarm2, but is far more advanced, featuring artificial intelligence – which is necessary due to the distance it will operate from Earth. As NASA works out the plans for the second and subsequent lunar surface missions, I hope for the sake of the Canadian space program that the Lunar Gateway with its Canadarm3 will still be in the mix. ●

billion milliard.

12. **to build, built, built on** s'appuyer sur / **to operate** fonctionner / **to work out** élaborer, définir, déterminer / **subsequent** suivant / **for the sake of** pour le bien de / **in the mix** ici, inclus.

Testez-vous

Avez-vous bien compris l'article ? Cochez la bonne réponse.

1. **What factor mentioned in the article is presenting a challenge to the Artemis program?**
 - a. A cut in the workforce.
 - b. A lack of funding.
 - c. A change in government policy.
2. **Which Artemis mission will be the first to land humans on the moon?**
 - a. Artemis III.
 - b. Artemis IV.
 - c. Artemis V.
3. **Which country, as reported in this article, plays a major role in the Lunar Gateway project?**
 - a. Britain.
 - b. Japan.
 - c. Canada.
4. **When do NASA hope to next land humans on the moon?**
 - a. 2027
 - b. 2028
 - c. 2030

SOLUTIONS : 1. a ; 2. b ; 3. c ; 4. b