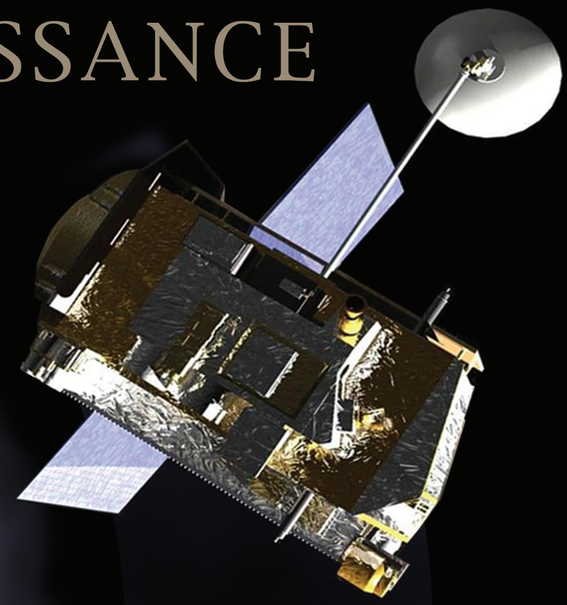
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

1610 - Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei made the first telescopic observation of the Moon



1959 - Soviet spacecraft Luna 2 reached the Moon

1964 - Ranger 7 produced the first close-up TV pictures of the lunar surface

1969 - Apollo 11 mission made the first landing on the Moon and returned samples

1994 - Clementine mission conducted multispectral mapping of the Moon

1998 - Lunar Prospector mapped the Moon from a low altitude polar orbit

2004 - NASA announces it's Moon, Mars and Beyond initiative, introducing a series of missions to the Moon

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) is NASA's first step in returning humans to the Moon.

The LRO Mission will not only enable future human exploration but also provide excellent opportunities for future science missions. The LRO payload, comprised of six instruments and one technology demonstration, will provide the most comprehensive data set ever returned from the Moon.

LRO focuses on the selection of safe landing sites, identification of lunar resources and the study of how the lunar radiation environment will affect humans. LRO will create the comprehensive atlas of the Moon's features and resources necessary to design and build the lunar outpost.

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