

## Russian Space Agency to Build Power Plant on Moon

Created: 27.07.2005 15:49 MSK (GMT +3), Updated: 17:48 MSK

MosNews

Mankind should explore the Moon to gain access to **helium-3** energy sources that are only found there, RIA Novosti quoted the head of the Russian Energia Space Energy Corporation, Nikolay Sevastianov, as saying Wednesday. The advantages would justify the enormous expense of manned space exploration, he said.

"We all understand that helium-3 is magnificent and an environmentally friendly fuel, an effective energy source. But unfortunately it is not found on Earth, while the Moon has vast resources of it," Sevastianov told the press.



The Moon / Photo from [www.netaxs.com](http://www.netaxs.com)

Many wonder today what the main purpose of manned space exploration is, Sevastianov said.

"I can answer that: piloted space exploration will help establish a base on the Moon, allowing the exploitation of energy resources," he was quoted by RIA Novosti as saying.

"In essence we are talking about getting access to deposits of new energy supplies. We understand that we must move step by step in the practical developing of the Moon -- the first stage will be flying around it, the second stage will be landing and then we are going to build an energy base on the Moon. After this, we are going to build a large power plant on the Moon," the official said.

"This will have a real impact on mankind, and this is what will justify the past, current and future expenses of space exploration," he added.

A single shuttle loaded with helium-3 mined on the lunar surface would be enough to supply the entire electrical power needs of the United States for an entire year, U.S. space researchers have said. Mankind should explore the Moon to gain access to helium-3 energy sources that are only found there, RIA Novosti quoted the head of the Russian Energia Space Energy Corporation, Nikolay Sevastianov, as saying Wednesday. The advantages would justify the enormous expense of manned space exploration, he said.