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Lunar Mining Camp

If nuclear fusion emerges as an important 21st-century energy source — as it well may, given that fusion reactors would be far less dirty and dangerous than the fission power plants now in use — profitable mining camps could be established on the Moon, which has an abundance of the high-potency fusion fuel Helium-3. This camp is powered by the fusion reactor in the background.

It uses electric catapults and a pair of cannons firing laser or microwave beams to send ore carriers off toward Earth. Ordinary lunar soil is also dispatched from this camp, for use in constructing large space stations and industrial facilities anywhere in the vastness of sublunar space.

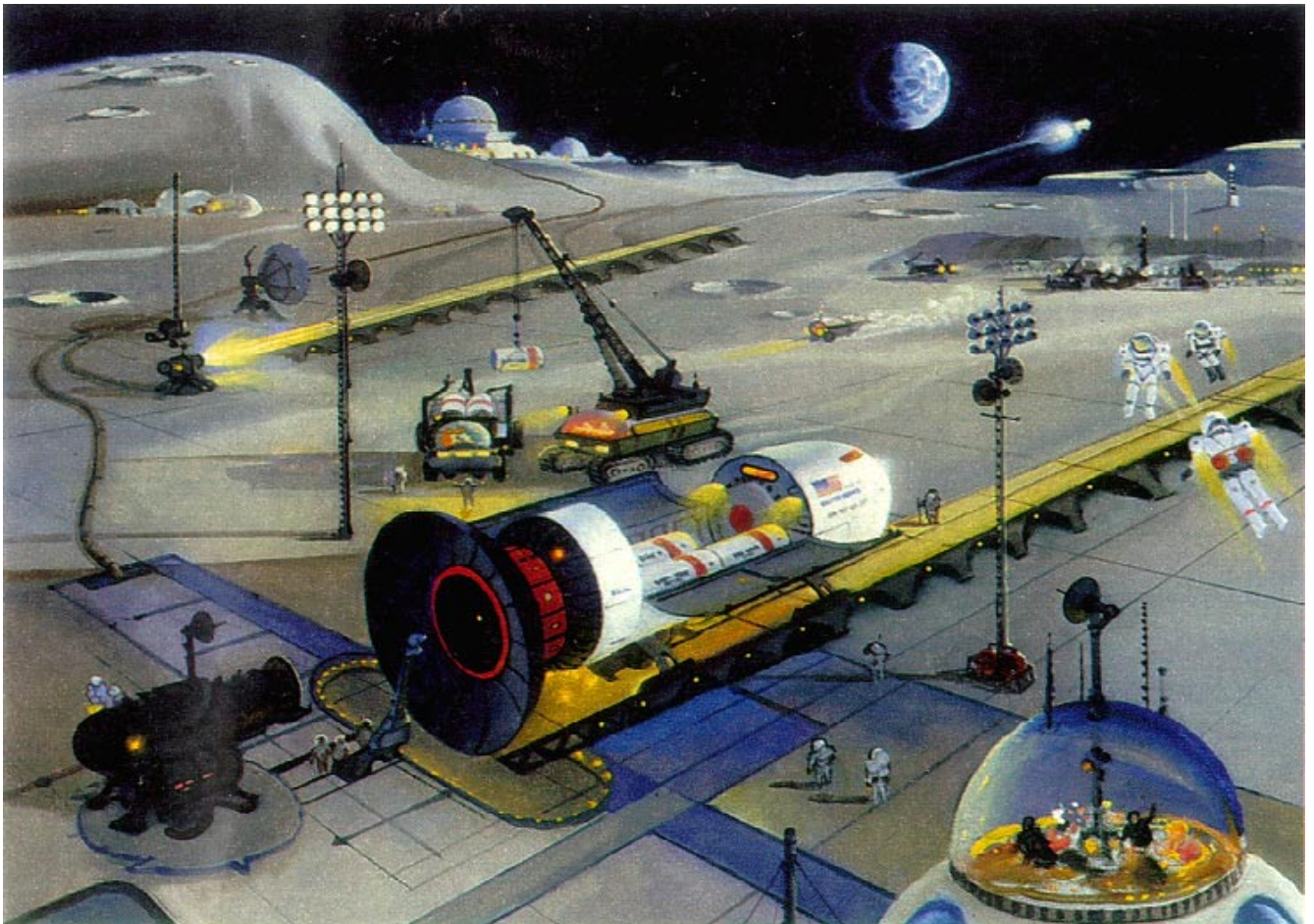


ILLUSTRATION BY BOB McCALL