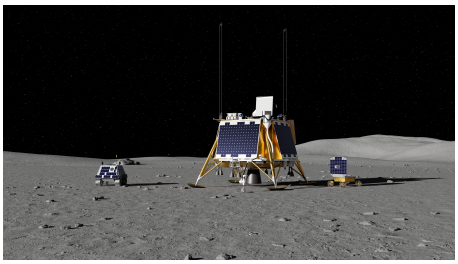
Firefly Awarded $177 Million NASA Contract for Mission to the Moon’s South Pole

July 29, 2025

Company’s fourth lunar mission and fifth NASA CLPS award utilizes Firefly’s Elytra orbital vehicle and Blue Ghost lunar lander to operate two rovers and three scientific instruments

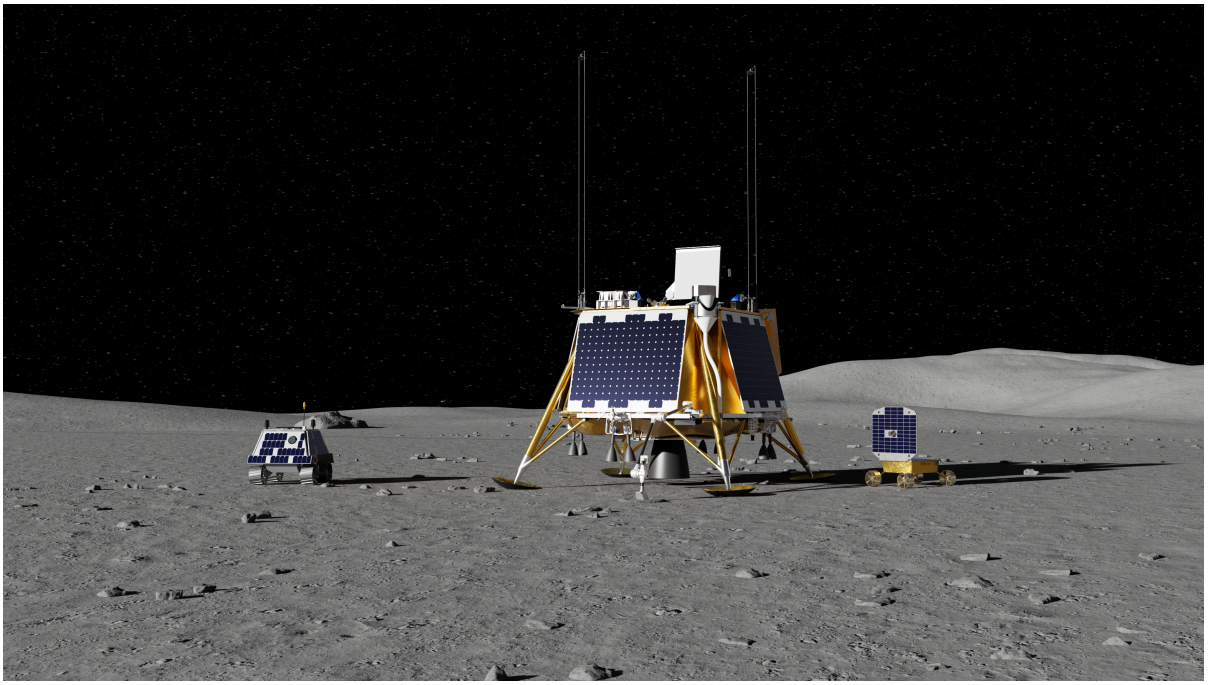
Firefly's Blue Ghost Mission 4 - Lunar Surface



Rendering of Firefly's Blue Ghost lander on the lunar surface with two rovers.

Firefly's Blue Ghost Mission 4 - Lunar Orbit

Rendering of Firefly's Elytra Dark vehicle deploying Blue Ghost into lunar orbit.



CEDAR PARK, Texas, July 29, 2025 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Firefly Aerospace, a market leading space and defense technology

company, was awarded a $176.7 million NASA Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) contract to deliver five NASA-sponsored payloads to the Moon's south pole in 2029. The mission will utilize Firefly's Elytra orbital vehicle and Blue Ghost lunar lander to enable payload operations that include evaluating the Moon's south pole resources, such as hydrogen, water, and other minerals, and studying the radiation and thermal environment that could affect future astronauts and lunar infrastructure.

"Firefly is honored to support another NASA CLPS task order as a proven, reliable partner for robotic missions to the Moon," said Jason Kim, CEO of Firefly Aerospace. "Following our first Blue Ghost mission that made history just a few months ago, this bold Firefly team proved we have the right mix of grit, innovation, and dedication to not only stick the landing, but also complete all scientific objectives for our payload partners. We've set the bar high, and we aim to continue setting new records in our missions to come with our active production line of Blue Ghost landers."

During Blue Ghost Mission 4 operations, Firefly's Elytra Dark transfer vehicle will first deploy the Blue Ghost lander into lunar orbit and remain on orbit to provide a long-haul communications relay for the mission. Blue Ghost will then land in the Moon's south pole region, deploy the rovers, and enable payloads operations with data, power, and communications services for more than 12 days on the lunar surface.

The NASA-sponsored payloads onboard Blue Ghost include two rovers – the MoonRanger rover and a Canadian Space Agency rover – as well as a Laser Ablation Ionization Mass Spectrometer (LIMS), a Laser Retroreflector Array (LRA), and the Stereo Cameras for Lunar Plume Surface Studies (SCALPSS), which also flew on Blue Ghost Mission 1. These payloads will help uncover the composition and resources available at the Moon's south pole, advance lunar navigation, evaluate the chemical composition of lunar regolith, and further study the effects of a lander's plume on the Moon's surface during landings.

Following Blue Ghost Mission 4 operations, Elytra Dark will remain operational in lunar orbit for more than five years in support of Firefly's Ocula lunar imaging service. The mission enables a third Elytra Dark in Firefly's growing constellation to provide customers with faster revisit times for lunar mapping, mission planning, situational awareness, and mineral detection services. The first two Elytra Dark vehicles will launch as part of Blue Ghost Mission 2 to the far side of the Moon in 2026 and Blue Ghost Mission 3 to the Gruithuisen Domes in 2028.

"Firefly's Elytra Dark spacecraft are great companions for Blue Ghost – they're highly maneuverable vehicles built with the same flight-proven components and propulsion system that successfully landed Blue Ghost on the Moon," said Chris Clark, Vice President of Spacecraft. "As our Elytra constellation continues to grow in lunar orbit, Firefly is in a unique position to provide lunar imaging services and a communications relay for missions anywhere on the Moon's surface. And with extra payload capacity on both Elytra and Blue Ghost, we invite additional government and commercial customers to join our fourth mission that's built upon the same reliable architecture and led by the same trusted team."

Customers interested in joining Blue Ghost Mission 4 can find more information at https://fireflyspace.com/missions/blue-ghost-mission-4/ and those interested in Firefly's Ocula lunar imaging services can find more details at https://fireflyspace.com/ocula/.

About Firefly Aerospace
Firefly Aerospace is a space and defense technology company that enables government and commercial customers to launch, land, and operate in space – anywhere, anytime. As the partner of choice for responsive space missions, Firefly is the only commercial company to launch a satellite to orbit with approximately 24-hour notice. Firefly is also the only company to achieve a fully successful landing on the Moon. Established in 2017, Firefly's engineering, manufacturing, and test facilities are co-located in central Texas to enable rapid innovation. The company's small- to medium-lift launch vehicles, lunar landers, and orbital vehicles are built with common flight-proven technologies to enable speed, reliability, and cost efficiencies for each mission from low Earth orbit to the Moon and beyond. For more information, visit www.fireflyspace.com.

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Photos accompanying this announcement are available at:

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