

State of Bavaria Moon-Summit (July 2025)



From left: Matthias Maurer, ESA astronaut, Dr. Silke Launert, Member of the Bundestag, Dr. Markus Söder, Bavarian Minister-President, Dr. Josef Aschbacher, ESA Director General, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Anke Kaysser-Pyzalla, Chair of the DLR Executive Board, Dr. Walther Pelzer, DLR Executive Board member and Director General of the German Space Agency at DLR, Dr. Michael Schöllhorn, CEO of Airbus Defence and Space, Hélène Huby, CEO of the Exploration Company, and Alexander Gerst, ESA astronaut. (Bild: 1/3, Credit: © DLR, all rights reserved) [1]

On July 4, 2025, the Bavarian State Chancellery hosted the Bavarian Moon Summit at the German Space Operations Center of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Oberpfaffenhofen under the motto: Exploration missions are drivers of innovation and significantly increase competitiveness and growth opportunities.

The Human Exploration Control Center (HECC) is currently being built at the German Space Operations Center (GSOC).

The new control center will support future European astronaut missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

With the construction of the Human Exploration Control Center (HECC), the existing technological and infrastructural connections for future astronaut mission operations within an international network will be expanded. "This will seamlessly continue the almost 60-year history of space operations at the DLR site in Oberpfaffenhofen," emphasizes Prof. Dr.-Ing. Anke Kaysser-Pyzalla, Chair of the DLR Executive Board. "With an investment of 20 million euros, DLR, as an independent research and technology institution, is making a decisive contribution to national and European independence in space. Together with our public stakeholders, especially the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space and the Free State of Bavaria, as well as the German space industry, we will further position Germany and Europe as key players for future space missions."

"Space is the final frontier: We are building a lunar control center in Bavaria. Bavaria, Germany, and Europe must be part of the space race. This is where new technologies

are developed and the future is shaped. Bavaria has provided 33 million euros for the lunar control center – so far. We are prepared to almost double this amount with a further 30 million euros for rapid expansion. We are thinking 'Big Size': Space research is the next important step for humanity and a huge leap for the Free State of Bavaria. Space travel inspires and creates jobs,” explains Bavaria's Minister President Dr. Markus Söder.

The new HECC is based on the successful operation of the Columbus module on the International Space Station (ISS) by the Columbus Control Center (Col-CC) of GSOC. The existing infrastructure will be expanded, and a new building with dedicated control, server, and clean rooms will be constructed to ensure the demanding operational requirements.

The HECC is an essential infrastructure for Bavaria, Germany, and Europe, ensuring greater independence and system capability in future astronautically spaceflight.

"Without the agreed German participation, this mission [NASA's international ARTEMIS mission] would not take off. This underscores the importance of European contributions in international partnerships – and the need to further expand our technological leadership," says Dr. Walther Pelzer, DLR Executive Board member and Director General of the German Space Agency at DLR.

Mission operations at GSOC and the associated astronaut training center at the DLR site in Cologne are working hand in hand to prepare for future missions.

Also at the DLR site in Cologne LUNA, a training facility for astronaut- and robotic lunar missions, was inaugurated in September 2024. The LUNA facility simulates lunar conditions and is jointly managed by DLR and the European Space Agency (ESA).

“That is why the new federal government is also investing heavily in this area. It's not just about science fiction, ethics, and spirituality, but about business and prosperity,” (Dr. Markus Söder).



Luna Bavaria Plaque in the Columbus Control Center (Col-CC)

Dr. Markus Söder, Bavarian Prime Minister.

Credit: Screenshot YouTube [2]

References:

[1] <https://www.dlr.de/de/aktuelles/nachrichten/2025/gipfeltreffen-am-raumfahrt-standort-bayern>

[2] [youtube.com/watch?v=euByIwITBcw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euByIwITBcw)