

Breakout Session: International Access to Lunar Data

Background and
Suggested Discussion Topics

Goals

- Identify opportunities for international access to lunar data.
- Identify obstacles to data access.
- Suggest options for removing obstacles.

Starting point: Where do we agree?

- International access to lunar data is a good idea, because all scientists benefit when data is shared.
- Working to make data access easier is worth the effort.

Suggested Discussion Topics

- What policies should lunar missions promote to enable international data access?
 - Release schedule
 - Public access
- What do scientists expect to find in a good archive?
 - Quality of data (for example, has it been peer reviewed?)
 - Processing level
 - Documentation
 - ?
- What is the role of PDS in non-NASA missions?
 - What does “PDS-compatible” mean?
- How can the International Planetary Data Alliance (IPDA) help enable international data access?
- What can a lunar mission do to help enable cross-correlation of data products with other missions?

Background: The IPDA

- IPDA = International Planetary Data Alliance
- The IPDA began as a group of data engineers from NASA/PDS and ESA/PSA worked on a **data access protocol** that allows a user to query both the PDS and PSA catalogs.
- The group recognized the need for both agencies to agree on a set of minimum standards for archiving, so that the protocol would work.
- The IPDA is evolving into a group with representation from many space agencies, whose goal is to enable global access to planetary data by defining standards for science data archives.
- First meeting was at ESTEC, Nov. 8-10, 2006, with participants from ESA, JAXA, CNSA, RKA/RAS, and NASA.
- More information is at <http://www.planetarydata.org>.