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Keralite employee shares fond memories

Since 1968, P.K. Abdul Kader took personal care of Hamdan



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Nagarjuna on battling terror

Veteran South Indian star talks about his new action film *Wild Dog*



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Rashid to be smallest, lightest lunar rover

MBRSC is working on completing design this year

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DUBAI
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As Hope Probe, the first Arab interplanetary mission, orbits Mars and prepares for its two-year science data gathering phase, the UAE is already working on the design of its lunar rover Rashid.

Named in honour of Shaikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the architect of modern Dubai, the Emirati-made rover is scheduled for launch in 2024.

In a tweet yesterday, the Dubai Media Office said: "As the UAE celebrates the achievement of the @HopeMarsMission probe, a group of Emirati scientists is already engaged in another historic feat: Building a lunar rover. The vehicle will be another regional first – & it is smaller than any rover to have landed on the moon."

The Emirates Lunar Mission is part of the 2021-31 strategy launched by the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC). On September 29, 2020, His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced that the UAE would launch a lunar rover that would land on the moon by 2024.

This will not only be the Arab world's first lunar mission, but will also make the UAE only the fourth country to land on the Moon – after the US, the former Soviet Union and China.

RASHID SET FOR 2024 LAUNCH

The lunar rover will be powered by solar panels and guided by advanced sensors. Its cameras will move both vertically and horizontally.

Height: **70cm**

Length: **50cm**

Width: **50cm**

Weight: **10kg**
with payload



Project schedule

- 2021: Completion of design
- 2022: Completion of manufacturing and assembly
- 2023: Start of preliminary experiments and tests of prototype

Equipment

- 3D camera
- Advanced motion system
- Sensors
- Microscope camera
- Thermal imaging camera

What it will do

Rashid will analyse the properties of soil, dust, radioactivity, electrical activity and rocks on the lunar surface.



DMO noted: "Set to launch in 2024, the Emirates Lunar Mission aims to travel to a part of the moon that has never been reached by a rover. The exact landing site has not yet been revealed, but the objective is to better understand how lunar dust and rocks vary across the moon."

In a previous *Gulf News* re-

port, Dr Hamad Al Marzouqi, project manager of Emirates Lunar Mission at MBRSC, said a team of Emirati engineers at MBRSC is working towards completing the design this year. Manufacturing and assembly will be completed in 2022, while preliminary experiments and tests will start in 2023.