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# Moon mission: MBRSC makes contact with Rashid Rover

MOHAMMAD BIN RASHID ANNOUNCES RECEIPT OF FIRST MESSAGE

**DUBAI**

**BY ANGEL TESORERO**  
Senior Reporter  
**KHITAM AL AMIR**  
Chief News Editor

**R**ashid Rover, the Arab world's first lunar rover, has sent its first message to the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in Dubai yesterday, three days after its successful launch on December 11.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, took to Twitter to announce MBRSC's receipt of the message.

He tweeted in Arabic: "From 440,000km away from Earth, Rashid Rover has sent the first message to the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre in Al Khawaneej. All the rover's devices and systems work properly. The Rover has started entering the Moon's orbit in preparation to land on the moon in the next few months."

## In good health

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) has confirmed the successful completion of the initial health check of the Rashid Rover.

In collaboration with the space ground station, the Emirates Lunar Mission (ELM) team established a telemetry lock with the rover yesterday, followed by a two-hour operation where all the subsystems were checked to confirm the health of the rover.

The rover is officially in good health and is set for landing after the four-month cruise phase.

Congratulating the ELM Team members, Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori, Chairman of MBRSC said: "We are proud of the successes achieved by this mission. The establishment of communication with the Rashid Rover and the steady progress of the mission convey a strong statement about the nation's capabilities and its commitment to ensuring the success of the upcoming phases of lunar exploration. The vast scope of our technologies and the ambitious nature of the mission may present challenges, but when they are weighed against the potential discoveries that can benefit the world, our efforts are infinitely worthwhile."



The Rashid rover was tested in the desert by the Emirates Lunar Mission team in preparation for the first Arab mission to the Moon's surface.

## NEXT MILESTONES FOR ELM

The Lander carrying Rashid Rover was successfully detached about 46 minutes into the flight, after which the telemetry lock was accomplished. The team is now preparing for other significant milestones.

The mission has entered the Cruise Phase, which could last up to 140 days. Throughout the cruise, the operators will contact the rover almost daily for 10 minutes to perform basic health checks and coordinate with the lander ground control team to ensure the battery charging status of the rover is consistent. The Arrival Phase (Entry, Descent, and Landing), which follows, is the most intense of all, as the lander will have to land on the lunar surface based on its system's calculation to chart a course for a specific landing spot on the moon.

Once the Lander has touched down on the lunar surface, the Deployment, Commissioning and Drive-off phase will begin. Following the completion of the post-landing checkout, instrument commissioning and initial data collection will commence.

This will be followed by the Nominal Surface Operations phase, the main part of the mission. For 10-12 days, the Rashid rover will be engaged in continuous surface research and image capture.

"We have accomplished the second milestone of the mission, which takes us a step closer to achieving the mission's goals. With its exceptional objectives, the mission will enhance the UAE's contribution to humanity's scientific progress. The mission embodies the UAE's spirit of innovation and progress, which is driven by the vision of our wise leadership to advance the nation's scientific achievements."

Following the telemetry lock, which represents a fixed signal

for data transmission, the team at the MBRSC Mission Control Centre will receive telemetry data once every 30 seconds throughout the operation. The telemetry data has confirmed that each subsystem has been powered on. A thermal reading revealed that the subsystems are in good internal health.

## Everything as planned

Commenting on the latest milestone of the mission, Dr. Hamad Al Marzooqi, Emirates

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**His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

Lunar Project Manager, said: "We are delighted at all of the mission's achievements to date, and I congratulate my team members. Everything is going according to plan. We have completed a full health assessment and the team will continue to monitor the health status of the rover during the journey to the moon on a daily basis. An interplanetary launch is fast-paced and dynamic, and regular communication checks are critical to ensure a stable mission."