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Rashid Rover a step closer to landing on the Moon

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Gulf News Report

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) yesterday announced the successful lunar orbit insertion by Rashid Rover, the first Emirati rover aiming to land on the surface of the Moon.

The iSpace lander carrying rover performed its first lunar orbit insertion manoeuvre at 5.24am UAE time yesterday, MBRSC said.

The lunar orbit insertion is the first of several milestones of the Rashid Rover, beginning with the remaining five subsystem checks.

Rashid Rover is now set for the arrival phase (entry, descent and landing). Once the lander is on the lunar surface, deployment, commissioning and drive-off command sessions will begin. Following this, instrument commissioning and initial data collection will begin.

Surface operations

Following that is the Nominal Surface Operations phase, which is the mission itself. For 10-12 days, the rover will conduct surface research and image capture. The final two phases after the lunar day are hibernation and last de-commissioning. When the secondary communication is activated, all information captured is downloaded before the hibernation phase.

The chances of the rover restarting after this are slim.



The one-hour event, which commenced with performances, featured an engaging 20-minute discussion with Al Neyadi.

2,000 residents interact with Al Neyadi at Dubai Opera

Next event in 'A Call with Space' series is scheduled on April 12

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre's 'A Call with Space' event held at the Dubai Opera yesterday brought together around 2,000 residents to interact with Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi, who spoke live from the International Space Station (ISS).

The astronaut, who has made history by embarking on the longest Arab space mission, answered a diverse range of questions from the public.

Nine live interactions

The first in a series of nine live public interactions of 'A Call With Space', the event was attended by space enthusiasts of all ages. The one-hour event, which commenced with immersive performances, featured an engaging 20-minute discus-

sion with Al Neyadi. Students asked Sultan about how oxygen is produced, how astronauts keep things from floating in space, and how they keep track of time within the ISS.

Daily life on the ISS

During the call, Al Neyadi demonstrated how he is getting familiar with the harsh environment of space by floating in all directions, and how they use velcro and other items to keep things from floating away. He also shared with the audience the kind of food he has and showed them how he eats candies and drinks water from a packet.

Speaking about how he keeps track of time, Al Neyadi said: "In space we use GMT time because it's difficult to track time depending on the sun, as we see 16 sunrises and sunsets every day. For us time flies really fast here."

'A Call with Space' will now head to other venues across all seven emirates in the UAE. The next event in the series is scheduled on April 12.