



## AHEAD OF HISTORIC MOON MISSION, SPACEIL TODAY TRANSPORTS FIRST ISRAELI SPACECRAFT TO FLORIDA

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Ahead-of-Historic-Moon-Mission--SpaceIL-Transports-First-Israeli-Spacecraft-to-Florida.html?soid=1126730957828&aid=Zr8l8fL8UQ>

[accessed on January 24, 2019]

**BEN GURION AIRPORT, Israel, Jan. 17** – Israeli nonprofit SpaceIL and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)'s first lunar spacecraft began a historic journey to the moon today, when it was transported in a cargo plane from Ben Gurion Airport to Orlando, Florida, ahead of launching from SpaceX Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station next month.

SpaceIL and IAI recently packed the 180-kilogram spacecraft into a special temperature-controlled, sterile shipping container, built to protect the spacecraft and ensure it arrives safely at the launch site. After landing at Orlando International Airport, the spacecraft – named *Beresheet* (the Hebrew word for *in the beginning*) – will then be driven to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, where it will be added as a secondary payload by launch service provider Spaceflight. It will be launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket together with a geostationary communications satellite built by SSL. The launch is targeted for no earlier than mid-February.

“After eight years of hard work, our dream has come true: We finally have a spacecraft,” said SpaceIL CEO **Ido Anteby**. “Shipping the spacecraft to the United States is the first stage of a complicated and historic journey to the moon. This is the first of many exciting moments, as we look forward to the forthcoming launch in Cape Canaveral.”

IAI Director of Logistics **Eyal Shitrit** said that though IAI has extensive experience in complex shipping projects, “the transporting of *Beresheet* is a unique challenge since this is a once-in-a-lifetime mission and there is no backup plan – this spacecraft must arrive safely.”

In addition to the container holding *Beresheet*, two more containers will be included in the cargo plane, which itself is temperature controlled. SpaceIL and IAI engineers will accompany the spacecraft on the flight to Florida, and more engineers will join them in Cape Canaveral. *Beresheet* will undergo final tests before being launched by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

Upon completing its lunar mission – the first in Israel's history and the first that's privately funded – Israel would join superpowers China, Russia and the United States in landing a spacecraft on the moon.

Since the establishment of SpaceIL, the task of landing an Israeli spacecraft on the moon has become a national project, with educational impact, funded mainly by **Morris Kahn**, a philanthropist and businessman who took the lead in completing the mission, serving as SpaceIL's president and financing \$40 million.

"The excitement we all feel today will only intensify moving forward, and I can't wait for the next milestone," said Kahn. "This is only the beginning."

Additional donors include **Dr. Miriam** and **Sheldon Adelson** – whose \$24 million contribution enabled the project to continue – and **Lynn Schusterman**, **Steven** and **Nancy Grand**, **Sylvan Adams**, **Sami Sagol** and others.

**Please find below photos and a video of SpacEL and IAI packing Beresheet, the first Israeli lunar spacecraft, into a special shipping container and then into a cargo plane.**



Watch SpacEL's lunar spacecraft get packed into a specialized shipping container, which was then flown to Orlando in a cargo plane.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0XFFSNRQEE>



On Jan. 17, Beresheet was driven from IAI's Space Division facilities to Ben Gurion Airport, where it was packed into a cargo plane. (Photo credit: Eliran Avital)



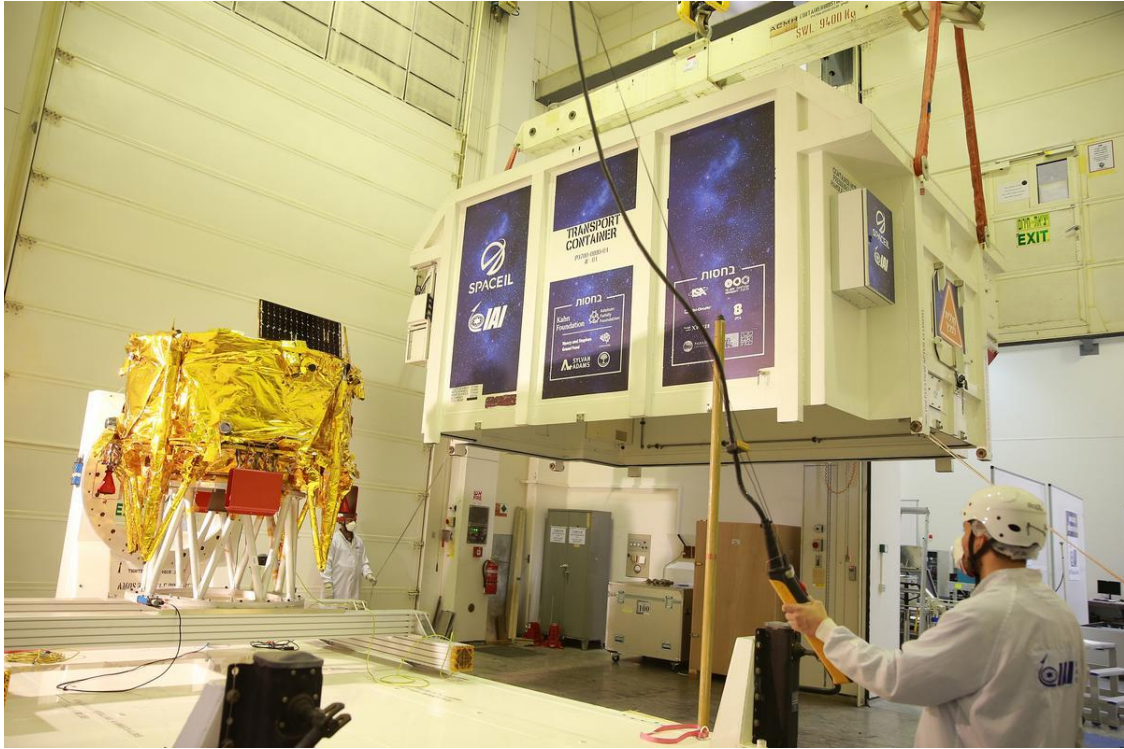
The spacecraft, inside a temperature-controlled shipping container, was loaded into a cargo plane at Ben Gurion Airport and then flown to Florida. (Photo credit: Eliran Avital)



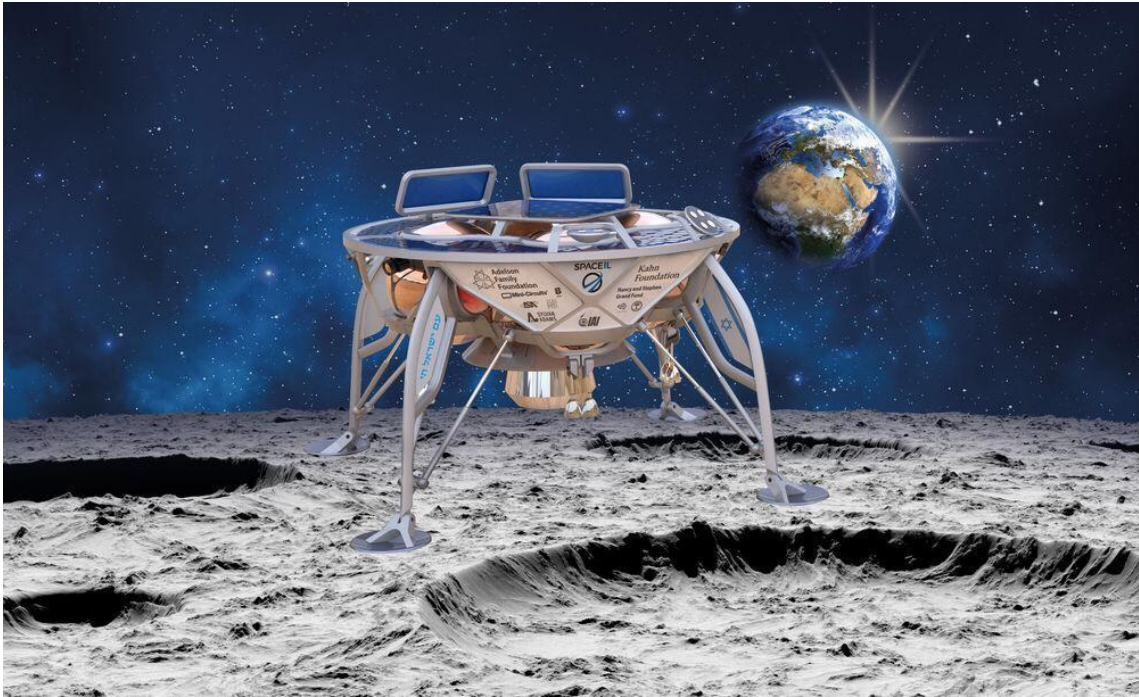
After landing at Orlando International Airport, the spacecraft will then be driven to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. (Photo credit: Eliran Avital)



(from left) IAI Space Division General Manager Opher Doron; SpaceIL President Morris Kahn; and SpaceIL CEO Ido Anteby. (Photo credit: Tomer Levi)



The first Israeli lunar spacecraft, named Beresheet, was loaded into a special shipping container and flown on Thursday to Florida ahead of SpaceIL's historic mission to the moon. (Photo credit: Tomer Levi)



SpaceIL's spacecraft is expected to launch from SpaceX Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida next month.

**About SpacEL:**

SpacEL is a non-profit organization established in 2011 aiming to land the first Israeli spacecraft on the moon. SpacEL was founded by three young engineers competing for the international Google Lunar XPRIZE challenge to build, launch and land an unmanned lunar spacecraft. SpacEL's other stated goal is to inspire the next generation in Israel and around the world to choose to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

**About Israel Aerospace Industries:**

IAI Ltd. is Israel's largest aerospace and defense company and a globally recognized technology and innovation leader, specializing in developing and manufacturing advanced, state-of-the-art systems for air, space, sea, land, cyber and homeland security. Since 1953, the company has provided advanced technology solutions to government and commercial customers worldwide including: satellites, missiles, weapon systems and munitions, unmanned and robotic systems, radars, C4ISR and more. IAI also designs and manufactures business jets and aerostructures, performs overhaul and maintenance on commercial aircraft and converts passenger aircraft to refueling and cargo configurations. <http://www.iai.co.il/>

**Appendix - Information Sheet:****The Spacecraft:**

The process of planning and developing the spacecraft, which includes the intensive work of engineers, scientists and staff, began in 2013 and continued until last year. The spacecraft, which weighs only 600 kilograms, is considered the smallest to land on the moon. It is only 1.5 meters wide and will be carrying about 75 percent of its weight. Its maximum speed will exceed 10 kilometers per second (36,000 km / h).

**The spacecraft's journey to the moon:**

Once launched, the spacecraft will begin with a long and complex flight. The spacecraft will be deployed from the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket when it reaches approximately 60,000 kilometers from Earth's surface and begin orbiting the Earth in elliptic orbits. It will circle Earth, widening its circumference each time, while saving fuel and only starting the engines at the end of each cycle. Then, at the right time, it will leave Earth's gravity and enter the gravity of the moon. After circling the moon a few times, it will begin the landing process, carried out autonomously by the spacecraft's navigation control system. The entire flight, from launch through landing, will take about two months.

**The mission:**

Once the spacecraft, carrying the Israeli flag, lands on the moon in April 2019, it will begin taking photos of the landing site. It will also perform measurements of the magnetic field in a scientific experiment carried out in cooperation with the Weizmann Institute and NASA. The data collected from this experiment will be transferred to IAI's control room during the two days following the landing.