

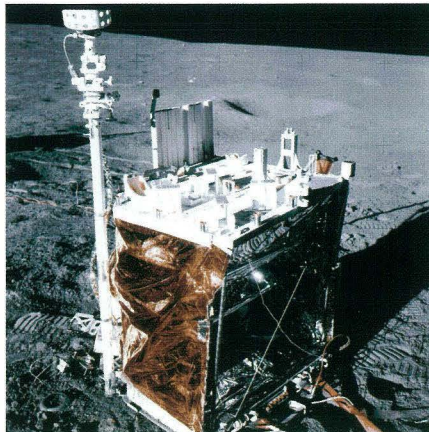
SpectrumData To Store And Recover NASA Data From The Moon

Data recovery and specialist data storage company SpectrumData has been chosen to store valuable NASA data from the moon.

The data was gathered from the Lunar Dust Detector Experiment (DDE) conducted during the Apollo 11 and Apollo 12 moon landings. It provides valuable information on dust and temperatures on the moon, shortly after Neil Armstrong stepped into space history in July 1969.

SpectrumData assisted in the retrieval of the 200 magnetic tapes, marked "NASA Manned Space Center", which have been stored by the physics department at Curtin University of Technology for the past 37 years.

The tapes are now stored in SpectrumData's purpose-built security vault in Technology Park, Bentley where they will undergo further analysis and processing. Chief Executive Officer, Guy Holmes, said given the magnetic reel tapes used to record the data are of a high quality, recovery of the lunar information should be feasible.



The NASA data represented the only long-term information on the lunar surface environment and as such are ideal for planning future lunar missions.

"From our initial assessment of the tapes they appear to be in relatively good condition for their age and we'll spend the next few weeks inspecting the integrity of the tapes for future recovery of the data", Holmes said. "We will sort them into logical order from day one of the moon mission through to the end of transmission

of data from the moon. The labels on the tapes, many of which are fading, will then be digitally photographed to preserve the content."

"All tapes will then be barcoded, a catalogue will be built and we'll perform a detailed media integrity audit to determine the condition of the magnetic media. Pending the results of the audit we'll then move forward with recovering the data from the tapes."

According to NASA's website the data represented, "the only long-term information on the lunar surface environment, and as such are ideal for planning future lunar missions". And that's what is hoped the data can be used for once recovered.

A group of scientists at the Kennedy Space Centre researching future landings and take offs from the moon and other planets such as Mars currently only have theoretical models and guesswork to base their studies on.

Access to the hard facts and statistics sourced by the DDE will assist these scientists with their work, allowing them to set parameters and potentially assist in future trips to the Moon and Mars. ■