

**Joint Statement of Intent
between the
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
of the United States of America
and the
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation
of Switzerland**

April 15, 2024

Acknowledging the long history of successful cooperation in space activities between the United States of America and Switzerland, which dates back to the crew of Apollo 11 unfurling a solar wind sail from the University of Bern, Switzerland, on the Moon in July 1969;

Building on their joint aspiration to return to the Moon after more than 50 years of cooperation, and considering the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation's (SERI) shared commitment to the Artemis Accords and its principles;

Considering the strong involvement of Switzerland, via its participation in programs of the European Space Agency (ESA), including: the International Space Station (ISS), Orion European Service Module, Lunar Gateway, Mars exploration campaigns, and various space and Earth science missions;

Recognizing the importance of space exploration for enabling future scientific research and the advancement of human knowledge, and a mutual interest in advancing exploration in a sustainable manner through mutually beneficial cooperation; and

Acknowledging the past and current bilateral collaborations, in particular the University of Bern's Laser Ionization Mass Spectrometer (LIMS), scheduled to be delivered to the lunar surface on a future NASA Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) delivery;

NASA and SERI confirm their desire to increase space cooperation and to continue discussions on potential cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including, but not limited to:

- o the intent to fly an advanced version of LIMS on the Artemis V mission;
- o robotic capabilities and CubeSats for enabling science investigations;
- o payloads for astronomical, heliospheric, lunar, and planetary missions;
- o cross-calibration of instruments as extreme precision astronomical spectrographs;
- o Swiss participation in NASA's International Internship project; and
- o other future Earth and space science, space exploration, and aeronautics collaborations.

SERI, acting through the Swiss Space Office, and NASA confirm their intent to take appropriate next steps once discussions mature further, including identifying points of contact for implementation and potentially developing international agreements or other instruments to formalize the bilateral cooperation.

**For the National Aeronautics
and Space Administration**



Bill Nelson
Administrator

**For the State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation**



Martina Hirayama
State Secretary