

Watts on the Moon Challenge

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In news— Recently, NASA has opened the Second phase of Watts on the Moon Challenge which offers \$4.5 million in prizes to design, build, and demonstrate a prototype that addresses technology gaps in power transmission and energy storage.

About Watts on the Moon Challenge-

- The Challenge is an approximately 36-month competition with a \$5 million prize to **incentivize new solutions for integrating power transmission and energy storage in order to enable missions operating in the extreme cold vacuum of the lunar surface.**
- **Phase 1 of this challenge** lasted approximately 8 months and offered \$500,000 in prize purses.
- To compete in Phase 1, teams had to submit ideas to support aspects of a hypothetical mission scenario – harvesting water and oxygen from a dark crater at the Moon’s South Pole with energy generated by a power plant located on the crater’s outer rim.
- **Phase 2 of this challenge will** last approximately 30 months and offer up to \$4,500,000 in prize purses.
- **It seeks solutions for energy distribution, management, and/or storage that address NASA technology gaps** and can be further developed for space flight and future operation on the lunar surface.
- **This Challenge is managed by NASA’s Glenn Research Center** in Cleveland and is part of Centennial Challenges, based at the agency’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.
- Centennial Challenges is a part of the Prizes and Challenges program within NASA’s Space Technology Mission Directorate.