

# item

## Press Release

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### The sun, moon and item

To “make living and working on the moon” a reality, NASA is planning a manned mission to the moon to build runways using high-tech equipment. By 2015 at the latest, the new manned Orion spaceship will be launched for the first time by a new Ares rocket.

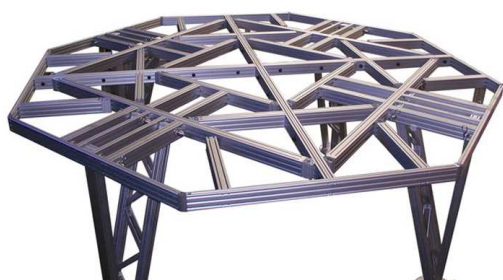
This Orion crew vehicle succeeds the space shuttle, which is still in use today, and in 2020 will be the first spaceship to take humans to the moon for more than 40 years.

MB Kit Systems, Inc., the US distributor for item Industrietechnik GmbH based in Solingen, Germany, is actively supporting the engineers at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton Virginia on this promising concept.



Test phase for the platform in sand dunes at Moses Lake, Washington State

### Prototype from the item Building Kit System undergoes testing



Platform made of aluminium profiles from item

Within 15 months, MB Kit Systems built and assembled several platforms averaging five (5) metres wide and two metres high. On the moon these will serve as a level surface for loads, equipment, oxygen and water tanks, as well as for the sleeping pods located outside the spacecraft.

The first prototypes weighing 900 kilograms were tested intensively for two weeks last June in the sand dunes near Moses Lake in Washington State, USA.

This area was chosen from a list of 20 potential environments as the sand dunes provide conditions that are very similar to the surface of the moon for optimal testing.

"The platform worked perfectly. Set up went smoothly – it was quick and easy – and the structure was very rugged. It was just as straightforward to disassemble the platform with this presenting no problems in poor weather conditions. During the two test weeks it was repeatedly sandblasted by winds of between 30 and 50 km/h," said one of NASA's development engineers following successful completion of the tests.

### **The item Kit System withstands the challenge**

One of the key requirements is the ability to assemble and disassemble the platform quickly and easily. It also has to be light and straightforward to transport. This is achieved by using eight (8) fully assembled parts which simply need to be pieced together by the fitter. With four segments for the platform plus four legs, trouble-free transportation and easy assembly in a short time are guaranteed.



Conditions similar to the surface of the moon

For the platform, MB Kit Systems, Inc. USA exclusively used components from the MB Building Kit System provided by item Industrietechnik GmbH in Solingen. Aluminium profiles form the basis of this development. Harmonising connection technology ensures the structure is able to withstand heavy loads while being weather- and windproof.