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[The Next Space-Going Superpower: The Isle of Man?](#)



Top contenders for the next manned moon landing: the United States, Russia, China, India, and... the Isle of Man.

Sure, the [island](#) found between Ireland and the United Kingdom is only three times the size of Washington, DC, but according to the consulting company [ASCEND](#), it's fifth in the line-up of most likely nations to make a moon landing between 2018 and 2020. They give Mann 50-1 odds that it will make it, coming in after India with 33-1 odds, and before the United Kingdom at 300 to 1 and Iran at 1,000 to 1. If I owned a consulting company, I'm not sure I'd publicize that prediction, but ASCEND's seemingly tongue-in-cheek [newsletter](#) (pdf) has this to say:



A surprising choice this one but the tax haven island has firms with a commercial interests in manned lunar flyby flights using Russian hardware.

A British Crown dependency, Mann is technically separate from the United Kingdom. Though the island’s space aspirations might not be grabbing major headlines, it is branding itself as the “[Space Isle](#).” As host of October’s [Google Lunar X Prize Summit](#) scheduled during the United Nations-declared World Space Week, it will hold a star gazing event in the 13th century [Castle Rushen](#) in Castletown.

The [triskelion](#) flag would certainly look handsome planted in lunar ground. If only I knew how to say “one small step” in Manx Gaelic....

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Image: [Wikipedia / Castle Rushen Portcullis Chamber / Manxruler](#)

September 7th, 2010 5:29 PM Tags: [Isle of Man](#), [moon](#), [moon landing](#), [space flight](#), [space race](#) by [Joseph Calamia](#) in [Space & Aliens Therefrom](#) | 0 comments | [RSS feed](#) | [Trackback >](#)

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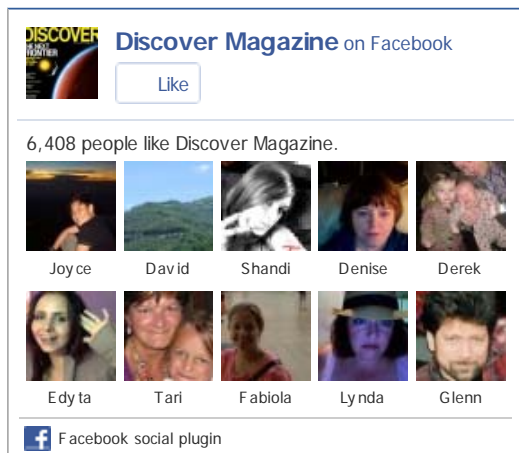


• About the Blog

DiscoBlog is DISCOVER's compendium of quirky, funny, and surprising science news from the edge of the known universe. It's mostly written by Joseph Calamia, and is edited by Eliza Strickland. Email tips, suggestions, or complaints to [estrickland \[at\] discovermagazine.com](mailto:estrickland@discovermagazine.com).

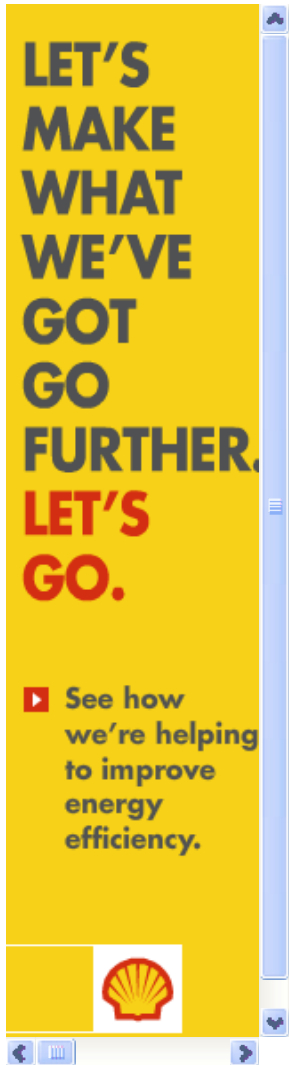
Also, Discoblog recently incorporated the brilliant blog [NCBI ROFL](#), in which two prone-to-distraction grad students post real scientific articles with funny subjects. [Email your tips to ncbirofl \[at\] gmail.com](#). Follow [the ROFL feed here](#).

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