



Software Support

United Space Alliance (USA), the Boeing/Lockheed Martin joint venture formed to operate NASA's space shuttle fleet, is pushing into the next application for its services with a set of software packages designed to support human exploration of the Moon. First up for USA's independent research and development (IRAD) "Questus" set of software tools is a data-management package called Integrated Lunar Information Architecture for Decision Support, produced in partnership with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. The idea is to take data from NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, set for 2008 launch, and present it to scientists using lessons learned from USA's human spaceflight work. Other Questus applications include exploration mission design and analysis, training and inventory control, all pitched toward NASA's plans of lunar return en route to Mars and beyond. "These products take what we've learned and create a better way to execute the next era of space exploration," says Jerry Miller, USA IRAD programs director.