

Failed Spacecraft to Be Upgraded for Moon Mission

By [The Moscow Times](#)

October 23, 2012

The  **Moscow Times**

The Fobos-Grunt spacecraft didn't make it to Mars, but a descendent will be shot off to the moon, space officials said.

The Federal Space Agency is planning to send two spacecraft for a rendezvous with the moon using Fobos-Grunt as a base for one of them.

Engineers have been working on two robotic missions to the moon, an orbiter called the Luna-Globe and a lander called the Lunar-Resource, which will study the soil of the moon's southern hemisphere, developer NPO Lavochkin said in [statement](#) Tuesday.

Engineers are preparing two prototypes and making "necessary modifications" to the design of the Fobos-Grunt to create the Lunar-Globe, which is to orbit the moon, it said. The Lunar-Resource landing spacecraft, it said, will feature "an original construction" while also combining Soviet expertise.

The Lunar-Globe is expected to be launched by 2015 and the Lunar-Resource in 2017 or 2018.

An engine malfunction prevented the \$161 million Fobos-Grunt from reaching orbit last year, causing it to crash into the Pacific Ocean. The failure raised questions about the capabilities of Russia's space industry.

But hopes for a repeat mission have not been lost, with space agency chief Vladimir Popovkin saying earlier this month that another probe would be sent to Mars by 2025.

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