# Chinese Probe Chang’e-6 Achieves Historic Landing on Far Side of Moon



**Chinese Probe Chang’e-6 Successfully Lands on Far Side of Moon**

On June 2, 2024, the Chinese spacecraft Chang’e-6 landed on the far side of the moon, specifically in the South Pole-Aitken Basin, at 6:23 a.m. Beijing time. The mission aims to collect 2 kg of lunar soil and rock samples to study the differences between the far side and the more familiar near side of the moon.

Chang’e-6 is part of China’s Chang’e moon exploration program, named after a Chinese moon goddess. This mission marks China’s fourth successful lunar landing and the second on the moon's far side. It follows the Chang’e-5 mission, which returned samples from the near side in 2020.

Launching from the Wenchang Satellite Launch Centre in Hainan on May 3, 2024, the Chang’e-6 lander will deploy a drill and a mechanical arm for sample collection. The samples will be transported back to Earth via a rocket booster to ensure a return to Inner Mongolia around June 25, 2024.

This mission underscores China’s growing ambition in space exploration, positioning the country alongside leading space powers such as the United States, Japan, and India. China aims to send astronauts to the moon by 2030, competing with the United States' Artemis program, which targets a manned lunar landing by 2026.