

Get our rovers to Huntsville

187

days until HERC 2027 opens in
Huntsville, Alabama, April 21–24.

[NASA HERC, dates may change ↗](#)

Sponsor NASA's Ingenuity winners. Queen's Lunar Exploration
Team builds rovers for NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge.

NASA Ingenuity Award, 2025 and 2026 [NASA, 2025 ↗](#) [NASA, 2026 ↗](#)

Only Canadian team at HERC 2026 [Smith Engineering, 2026 ↗](#)

Partner with QLET

[See the track record](#)

Sunrise over a lunar plain. Generated imagery.



Ingenuity Award, two years running

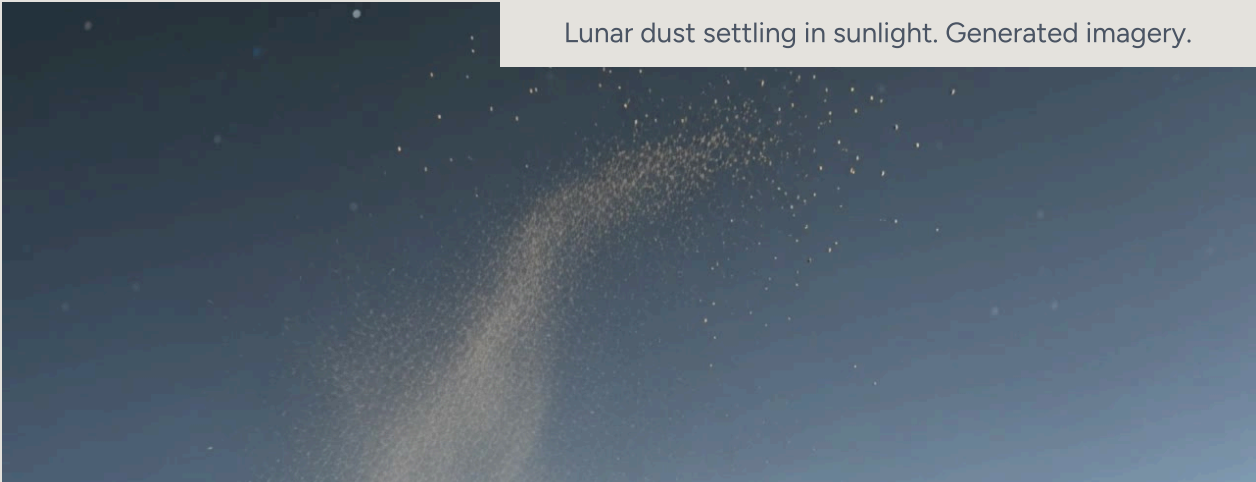
2025

NASA Ingenuity Award
HERC 2025 field: 75 teams, from the U.S. and
16 other nations.
[NASA, 2025](#)

2026

NASA Ingenuity Award, second year running
HERC 2026 field: 42 teams and more
than 500 students.
[NASA, 2026](#)

We won NASA’s Ingenuity Award in 2025, then won it
again in 2026.



Lunar dust settling in sunlight. Generated imagery.

Only

Canadian team at HERC 2026
[Smith Engineering, 2026](#)

NASA gives its Ingenuity Award to the boldest idea at HERC, in any division. [Smith Engineering, May 2026](#)
Also in 2025: the Pit Crew Award, Human-Powered College/University Division. [NASA, 2025](#)

NASA's lunar rover challenge



Archival photo. Apollo 15, 1971, not our rover. NASA/David Scott, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

2 divisions

Human-powered: people pilot the rover. We won the Pit Crew Award here in 2025. [NASA, 2025 winners ↗](#)

Remote-controlled: operators drive from a distance and do tasks on the way. [Smith Engineering, May 2026 ↗](#)

Built by students

NASA requires airless wheels, and students must make them.

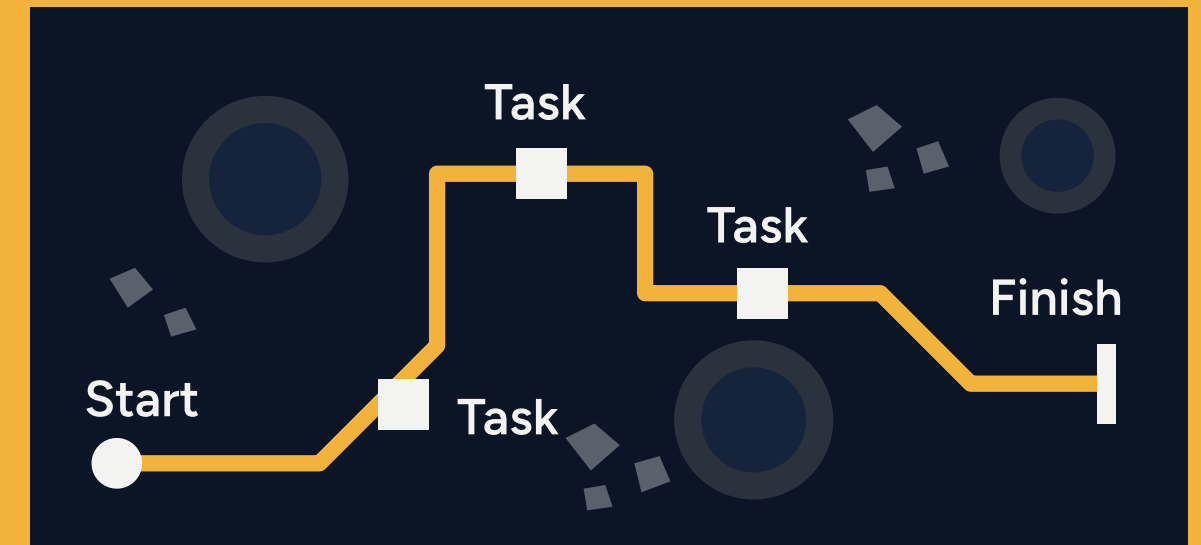
[MDA Space LaunchPad ↗](#)

Our 2025 wheels were 3D printed in carbon-fibre-reinforced nylon.

[MDA Space LaunchPad ↗](#)

HERC is NASA's student lunar-rover competition, tied to its Artemis program. [NASA, 2026 winners ↗](#) Teams design, build and test a rover that people pilot or operators drive by remote control.

A course with tasks



Illustrative. An invented course to show the idea, not the real HERC layout.

Teams drive a course and do tasks on the way. Our 2026 fleet had 12 minutes, so it worked its tasks in parallel. [Smith Engineering, May 2026 ↗](#)

HERC 2027 is **April 21–24, 2027** at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. [NASA HERC, dates may change ↗](#)

4 rovers in 2 years

Remote-control fleet, 2026

Moe Mothership Of Excursions. Carries Eenie and Meenie.

Eenie Environmental Extractor for Near-surface In-situ Evaporation.
Collects soil.

Meenie Mobile Environmental Evaluator for Neutrality and Ionic Equilibria. Collects water and tests its pH and moisture.

Won NASA’s Ingenuity Award at HERC 2026. [Smith Engineering, May 2026](#)

Human-powered rover, 2025

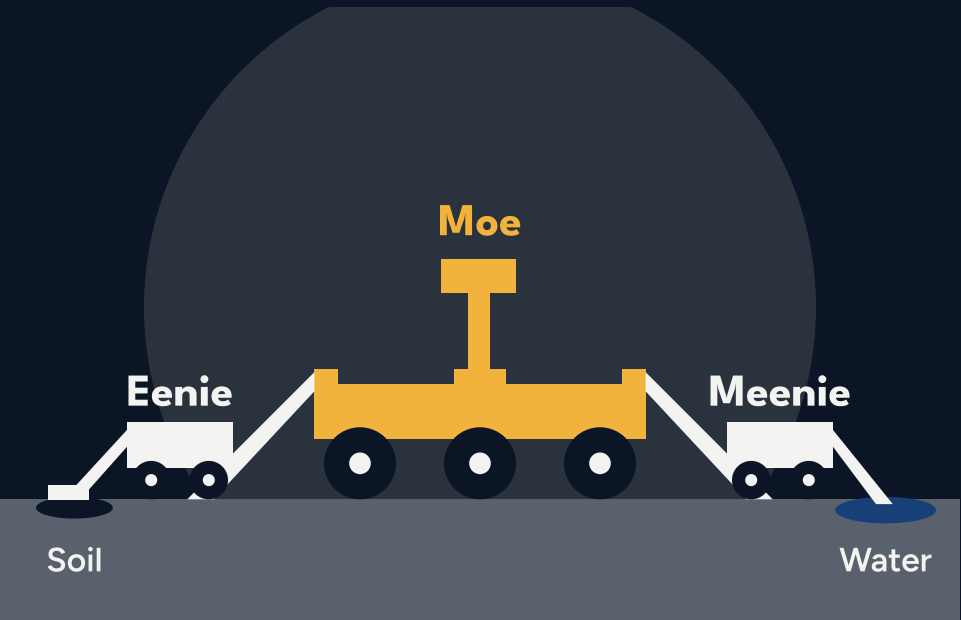
Wheels Airless wheels we 3D printed in carbon-fibre-reinforced nylon, to survive cyclic and impact loading. NASA requires airless wheels made by students.

[MDA Space LaunchPad](#)

Won the Pit Crew Award, Human-Powered College/University Division, at HERC 2025. [NASA, 2025 winners](#)

1 human-powered rover in 2025, then 3 remote-control rovers in 2026.

[MDA Space LaunchPad](#) [Smith Engineering, May 2026](#)



Schematic, not to scale. Shapes are illustrative, not the real rovers.

3

rovers, working tasks in parallel

[Smith Engineering, May 2026](#)

2

operators: one for Moe, one for Eenie and Meenie

12 min

on the course to get it all done

Next: HERC 2027

One slot per division. Specs, and which divisions we enter, go here once the designs are frozen.

Human-powered rover, 2027. In design. We’ll publish the specs once the design is frozen.

What sponsor support goes into: materials, printed wheels, testing.

Remote-controlled rover, 2027. In design. We’ll publish the specs once the design is frozen.

What sponsor support goes into: electronics, sample tools, testing.

From capstone to 2 Ingenuity Awards

QLET started as one student’s capstone proposal. Two years later it’s a design team with 2 NASA Ingenuity Awards.

[Smith Engineering, May 2026](#) ↗ [NASA, 2026 winners](#) ↗



A printer laying a wheel-like part. Generated imagery, not our workshop.

Fall 2024

A capstone project

Brandon Lewis proposes a HERC rover as a fourth-year mechanical engineering capstone.

[Smith Engineering, May 2026](#) ↗

October 2024

3 days to a proposal

The team writes its NASA proposal in 3 days. NASA accepts it in October.

[MDA Space LaunchPad](#) ↗

7 months

Built around internships

7 months of building, while the team works full-time internships.

[MDA Space LaunchPad](#) ↗

HERC 2025

2 NASA awards

The Ingenuity Award and the Pit Crew Award, Human-Powered College/University Division.

[NASA, 2025 winners](#) ↗

April 2026

Ingenuity Award, again

3 remote-control rovers, the only Canadian team in the field, and a second Ingenuity Award.

[Smith Engineering, May 2026](#) ↗

“I’ve learned as much in the past two years from this team as I have in four to five years of classwork.”

Brandon Lewis, Chief Technical Officer [Smith Engineering, May 2026](#) ↗

“We had quite a bit of national pride to go down there as the only team representing Canada.”

Brandon Lewis, Chief Technical Officer

[Smith Engineering, May 2026](#) ↗



Placeholder. Team photo, coming

What your company gets

Early access to engineers who build to deadlines, and your name on a NASA stage. If you want it, a technical problem your team helps us solve.

Who has backed us

MDA Space, 2025: LaunchPad program and mentorship from its rover team. [MDA Space LaunchPad ↗](#)

NordSpace, 2026: Support for the 2026 season. [Smith Engineering, May 2026 ↗](#)

Smith Engineering, 2026: Support for the 2026 season. [Smith Engineering, May 2026 ↗](#)

Archival photographs: Carol M. Highsmith; NASA Marshall Space Flight Center; NASA. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Hire engineers who ship hardware

Our members design, print and drive real rovers to a NASA deadline. Meet them before they graduate, at a recruiting session on campus or at your office.

The 2025 rover went from a 3-day proposal to a finished machine in 7 months, built around full-time internships. [MDA Space LaunchPad ↗](#) The team grew out of a fourth-year mechanical engineering capstone at Smith Engineering. [Smith Engineering, May 2026 ↗](#)

Your name at a NASA competition

Your logo travels on the rover, the team kit and this site, all the way to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

HERC 2026 brought 42 teams and more than 500 students. [NASA, 2026 winners ↗](#) We were the only Canadian team there. [Smith Engineering, May 2026 ↗](#)

Work on a real problem with us

Give your engineers a rover problem to mentor: wheels, sampling tools, electronics. That's how MDA Space worked with us.

In 2025, MDA Space's rover team guided us through its LaunchPad program. [MDA Space LaunchPad ↗](#)

A story your people will share

A Canadian student team, a NASA award two years running, and a rover your sponsorship helped build. It writes your next post for you.

NASA Ingenuity Award, HERC 2025 and HERC 2026. [NASA, 2026 winners ↗](#)



Wheel tracks in lunar soil. Generated imagery, not our rover's.



The U.S. Space & Rocket Center, 2010. Not our photo.



A NASA wheel test, 1969. Not ours.



Apollo 17, 1972. Not our team.

4 ways to partner

Supporter

\$250

For alumni, friends and small firms who want to help.

- Your name on this site
- Thank-you post on our social channels

[Email about Supporter](#)

Launch

\$1,000

Your logo on the jersey and this site for the whole season.

Everything in Supporter, plus:

- Your logo on this site and the deck
- Your logo on the team jersey

[Email about Launch](#)

Pick a level, or give parts, machining or software instead. We'll shape any tier around what your company wants.

All amounts in Canadian dollars, for one season ending at HERC 2027.

Orbital

\$2,500

Your logo on the rover in Huntsville, and first access to our engineers.

Our pick for most companies.

Everything in Launch, plus:

- Your logo on the rover
- Recruiting session with the team

Email about Orbital

Lunar

\$5,000+

Your name on a rover subsystem, and the rover at your office for a day.

Everything in Orbital, plus:

- Rover demo day at your office
- A rover subsystem named for your company

[Email about Lunar](#)

In-kind

Give what you make or do. We credit in-kind support at its fair value, on the same tiers.

Materials and components Machining and fabrication
Software licences Travel to Huntsville

[Offer in-kind support](#)

Where your money goes

Most of it becomes the rover. The rest gets the rover and the team to Huntsville.

\$40,000

CAD, to build, test and race at HERC 2027

Materials and components

Frame stock, drivetrain parts, electronics, sensors, and the carbon-fibre nylon we print wheels from.



35% \$14,000

Travel and lodging to Huntsville

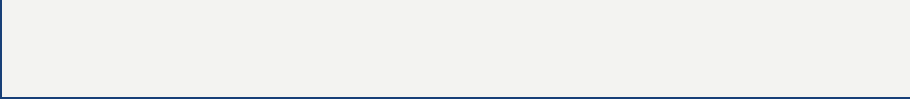
Getting the competing team from Kingston, Ontario to Huntsville, Alabama and housing them for race week.



25% \$10,000

Manufacturing and tooling

Machining, printer time and the jigs and tools a build needs.



20% \$8,000

Registration and shipping

Competition fees and shipping the rovers to Alabama and back.



10% \$4,000

Testing and spares

Test days, and the spare wheels and parts we carry to the course.



10% \$4,000

Illustrative. Placeholder shares of a \$40,000 CAD season, until the team signs its budget off.

Huntsville, April 21, 2027

Our 2025 rover took 7 months to build. Support that arrives this fall buys the parts we test in the spring. [MDA Space LaunchPad ↗](#)

Partner with QLET

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[NASA HERC, dates may change ↗](#)

Done	Next	Planned	Planned	Planned	Planned
September 17, 2026	November 2026	January–February 2027	March 2027	Early April 2027	April 21–24, 2027
Proposals due	Design review	Build	Test	Ship to Huntsville	HERC 2027
The deadline for HERC 2027 proposals to NASA. NASA HERC ↗	Concepts frozen and checked against NASA’s rules before we cut material.	Frames, drivetrains and electronics built. Wheels printed.	Drive days on rough ground, timed runs, fixes, spares.	Rovers packed and on the road to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.	Race week at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama. NASA says dates may change. NASA HERC ↗

Proposals and race week are NASA’s dates. The ones between are our plan, still to be confirmed.



Earth over a lunar ridge. Generated imagery, not NASA footage.

Email us about HERC 2027

sponsorship@
example.com

Tell us what your company wants from a partnership. We'll come back with a plan built around it.

Queen's Lunar Exploration Team, Smith Engineering, Queen's University,
Kingston, Ontario.

Partner with QLET

[Download the deck \(PDF\)](#)

Follow the build on Instagram and LinkedIn: links coming.

187 days until HERC 2027. The sooner you're in, the more of the rover you're on. [NASA HERC, dates may change ↗](#)