

PRESS RELEASE

Blewbury's Red Lion To Become The First Pub In Space

- Oxfordshire landlords are first pub to buy lunar probe from PocketSpacecraft.com
- Customised Red Lion spacecraft to carry pictures of pub, landlords and regulars on mission to the moon
- Pub aims to compete against other spacecraft in bid to be first on the moon

Blewbury, Oxon, Wednesday August 7, 2013.

Pub landlords Matt Wardle & Kerry Tombs are set to boldly go where no other landlords have been before – on a mission to the moon.

The space-mad pair have backed PocketSpacecraft.com, a KickStarter project that aims to open up space exploration to the general public by allowing anyone to buy miniature Thin-Film spacecraft, customise them online, and send them into space from just £19.

Should the mission hit its funding target, Matt & Kerry's Lunar Scout spacecraft will join thousands of others in 'piggybacking' on a commercial space launch, hitching a lift into space on a custom-built, low-cost, CubeSat satellite before being released into the moon's orbit and landing on the moon.

Each individual craft is fitted with instruments and a microcomputer, allowing the owner to track its speed, location and more using a 'Pocket Mission Control' app on their smartphone.

The Red Lion plans to print its logo on its spacecraft and encourage regulars to invest in their own personal spacecraft, to join the race to the moon. The pair plan to run promotions as the mission progresses, such as free beers for regulars landing on the moon before the pub, a free meal for whoever lands closest to the pub and a sweepstake for where and when the spacecraft lands.

The Red Lion is even encouraging other pubs to get involved in an inter-village space pub race. With the Oxfordshire village of Blewbury located close to the science park at Harwell, Wardle expects the project to be popular with many of his scientist and engineer regulars.

Local MP (Didcot and Wantage) and Government Minister for Culture, Communications & Creative Industries Ed Vaizey seems impressed, tweeting about the project after visiting the team recently at their Bristol HQ.

“I’ve always been fascinated by space and technology, so when one of my regulars told me about PocketSpacecraft.com the Red Lion Space Mission was on.” said Wardle “To have the opportunity to create our own Red Lion spacecraft and send it on a 250,000-mile, twelve-month mission to the moon is amazing. It’s a scientific experiment on a massive scale and with all the data we’ll collect who knows what we’ll discover. We think the regulars will love it. And if Mr Vaizey wants to chat space exploration over a free pint at the Red Lion he’s most welcome.”

PocketSpacecraft.com was conceived by Michael Johnson, a physicist, who conceived the idea after working on CubeSats – a technology that has dramatically reduced the cost of scientific space exploration but is still too costly for individuals. On this particular mission, people will be able to choose between either an Earth Scout spacecraft, which will be released from a CubeSat into the Earth’s lower atmosphere before returning to earth, or a Lunar Scout spacecraft, which will be deployed in low lunar orbit and land on the moon. All spacecraft have a computer and instruments, and for the more scientifically and technically minded there are options for people to customise their spacecraft’s software or hardware.

“Each and every Pocket Spacecraft is small but powerful, fitted with multiple instruments, computer and radio that makes it possible for you to track your craft through space.” says PocketSpacecraft founder Michael Johnson. “And with the option to write software, or even build custom hardware for your spacecraft, it’s possible to conceive, design, build and conduct your own experiments in space. If we hit our target this could herald an entirely new era of personal space exploration.”

ENDS

Editors Notes

About PocketSpacecraft.com

PocketSpacecraft.com aims to open up space exploration for everyone, by allowing people to buy their own small spacecraft, customise it and track its progress through space from just £19.

Each craft is small but powerful, equipped with its own solar power source, microcomputer, communications system and multiple instruments to track speed, position, radiation, light and more. All the data can be tracked minute-by-minute through your own “Pocket Mission Control” smartphone app, the development of which will be part-funded by the European Space Agency.

People can choose between Earth Scouts: spacecraft that will be sent into the earth’s lower atmosphere, before returning to earth, or Lunar Scouts: spacecraft that will be released into a Lunar orbit before landing on the moon. Special

packages are also available to make it possible for schools to run academic projects in line with the National Curriculum, for programmers to write custom code for the spacecraft, or even for engineers to customise the hardware of the spacecraft itself.

With most space missions dominated by private sector missions costing millions or billions, space exploration for the purposes of serendipitous discovery, or the data it creates, is simply not accessible to the public. The project is being run by a dedicated team 100+ of scientists from across the world who intend to open up a new era of space exploration for everyone, using crowd-funding and CubeSat technology that has reduced the cost of launching satellites.

Find out more at PocketSpacecraft.com or visit [Kickstarter](#) to back the project today.

<http://kck.st/14zOnAA>

Contacts:

Email: media@PocketSpacecraft.com

UK phone: +44 117 230 2060

US phone: +1 626 768 2050

Web: <http://www.pocketspacecraft.com>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/mySpacecraft>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PocketSpacecraft>

Pictures, Images & Links:

The Red Lion Pub, Blewbury, Oxon

<http://www.redlionblewbury.co.uk>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/RedLionBlewbury>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Red-Lion-Blewbury/430186687016341>

Other images & videos:

<http://pocketspacecraft.com/about/press/>

Tweet from Ed Vaizey MP:

<https://twitter.com/edvaizey/status/362486305940193280>

Pub Landlords Matt Wardle & Kerry Tombs with prototype Lunar Scout (below)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/95612220@N05/9399246429>

Photo Credit: PhillipsPR – image is freely available for publication.

