Interview with Jim Keravala from the Shackleton Energy Company

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1. What is Shackleton Energy Company (SEC) all about?

SEC was created as a commercial enterprise for a single purpose, within a decade provide rocket propellants and related services in space and on the Moon to all space faring customers at prices substantially below anything available from Earth. The propellants will be derived from the freely available, naturally occurring, ice located in great quantity at the lunar poles. Like other energy companies, SEC will independently conduct all exploration, mining, processing, transportation, integrated logistics support and sales. SEC will most likely evolve into a meshed network of highly specialized companies all structured to provide unique services and products to an ever-expanding space marketplace. When successful, SEC propellant depots will become the network hubs for the in-space transportation system.

2. What’s a realistic timeline for when you could get orbital fueling stations up and running? (If you could sketch out briefly: When do you hope to launch scouting missions, then build bases, then start mining operations, then get the orbital fueling stations running?)

Within four years of startup, we intend to launch two robotic lunar prospector (scouting) missions to both poles of the Moon to selected, high probability, ice-laden craters. Because of the extremely harsh operating environments, robotic rovers will perform prospecting operations for at least a year each in the ultra cold, ultra dark craters (we are talking of an area with a temperature of 20 K). We will use sophisticated solar power systems and methods to power the operations. ‘Ore’ maps will be developed to make follow-on business decisions. We will use NASA lessons learned and rover experience/technology as guides to developing our rovers. This process takes maximum advantage of significant US Government investments for our benefit.

Concurrent with prospecting operations, we will conduct a major systems engineering

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