

Moon water sheds light on Earth's development

Updated Tue Jul 6, 2010 9:36am AEST

NASA scientists say their latest findings from the moon shed light on the Earth's development.

In October NASA deliberately smashed a space craft into a crater near the moon's southern pole.

The force of impact allowed researchers to collect samples which contained ice and dust.

The results of the NASA mission are to be presented at the Australian Earth Sciences Convention in Canberra this week.

Planetary scientist Dr Jennifer Heldmann helped plan the moon mission.

She says a better understanding of ancient lunar craters is rewriting the Earth's history.

"These lunar cold traps, we have termed them 'the junkyards of the solar system', because materials that were delivered early on in history get trapped in these permanently shadowed regions because it is so cold. What these permanently shadowed craters are, are time keepers, the inventory of material that was delivered to the Earth moon system," she said.

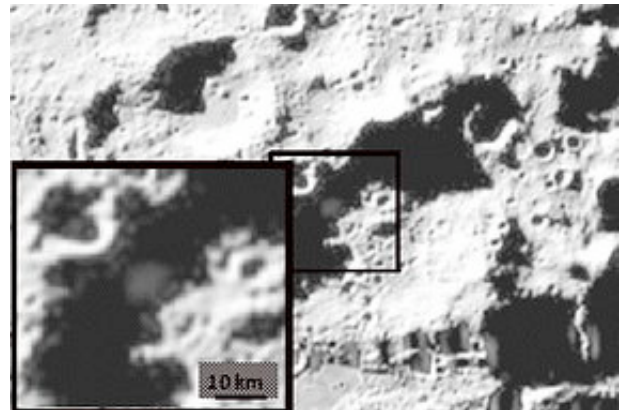
"We think that water was delivered to the Earth from comets, asteroids and what not. That record is preserved on the moon in these very special craters."

NASA says the presence of lunar water raises hopes of establishing a permanent lunar base.

Tags: [science-and-technology](#), [astronomy](#), [the-moon](#), [act](#), [canberra-2600](#)

First posted Tue Jul 6, 2010 9:07am AEST

[MORE stories from the ACT](#)



NASA crashed a satellite into the permanently shadowed region of Cabeus crater near the moon's south pole. This visible camera image shows the ejecta plume at about 20 seconds after impact. (NASA)