

The BA Project

- Interesting new name of the project: **I'll pass this on to PR/Marketing team**
- “The Silence Archive”
- Reasoning behind this:
 - There are two adjectives relating to the moon; lunar and selenic.
 - Lunar – of or pertaining to the moon,
 - Selenic – of or pertaining to or containing selenium, an element that was named after the moon.
 - Two anagrams of selenic are; silence and license,
 - Silence relates to the idea of the lunar archive being left on the moon for billions of years untouched, preserved for ever in silence, and license refers to my ideas on the law of the archive being on the moon and its right to be there.

a) International Laws and Treaties Concerning Usage of the Moon

- The Outer Space Treaty, which most countries in the world have signed and ratified, restricts the use of the moon to peaceful purposes, explicitly banning military installations and weapons of mass destruction.
- There is also “The Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies” also known as the “Moon Treaty” or the “Moon Agreement”. This restricts the exploitation of the moon's resources by any single nation. This treaty unfortunately has not been signed by any of the space-faring nations. Importantly, those nations that have space agencies with manned space flight capability; The People's Republic of China (China National Space Administration), The United States of America (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and The Russian Federation (Russian Federation Space Agency).
- The BA project does not come into conflict with any of the established treaties. Therefore the BA project should not in theory be open to challenges from any countries. However some countries (notably the ones with the capacity to send manned space flights to the moon) who have not signed the treaties may object to the project – **examples of reasons why countries may wish to object to the project may be that: they don't like it not being run by a government, don't agree that the project has any beneficial objectives (to that country or overall), national pride/jealousy, other political reasoning or even religious reasons etc..** One is to presume that these countries have not signed the treaties because they wish to keep their options open for possible exploitation of minerals or yet unknown resources.
- The archive would be the first permanent installation from Earth on the moon. As of yet we do not know how the international community will react. This may prompt further treaties to be formalised, clarifying the previous treaties' objectives, steering the way for further permanent installations on the moon such as a moon base, a lunar colony, permanent mining facility, or even a residential and research base, as in Antarctica.

b) Ownership of the moon

- No nation currently claims ownership of any part of the moon's surface. This is due to 'The Outer Space Treaty' which also defines the moon and all of outer space as the "province of all mankind".
- On the 15th June, 1936, A. Dean Lindsay made claims to all extraterrestrial objects and sent a letter to the Pittsburgh Notary Public along with a deed and money for the establishment of the property, in addition the public sent offers to buy objects that might be removed from the moon surface.
- Despite this and various other notable claims none are considered credible. This is because of the aforementioned 'Outer Space Treaty'.
- The International Moon Treaty also forbids private ownership of extraterrestrial real estate, however this has not been signed by the major space-faring nations.
- One can conclude that no one has the outright ownership of the moon or any part of it. Those in a position or who have the interest to explore the moon will by nature be associated with one of the countries with a operative space programme.
- There is a possibility in the future that a further treaty could be formed based on the Antarctic treaty system; setting aside the moon as a scientific preserve and establishing freedom of scientific investigation, but unlike Antarctica the moon should be officially declared as neutral ground, backing up previous treaties.
- An area not covered within the agreements is that no country can be stopped from interfering with other countries' installations. How would the archive be protected and made secure from interference by a third party from earth (i.e. The Chinese or maybe Russians may wish to destroy the digital information and replace it with their own archive.) This could rewrite history in their favour, perhaps that everyone looked like them or some such incorrect information. **Although the UN declare that any interference on the Moon is illegal, they have no way of policing and/or enforcing this.**
- The archive is going to be buried at the Luna south pole at least ten meters below surface of the moon, possibly more of the region of 40 to 50 metres, where it is very cold with very little heat and light ; it is therefore naturally protected.
- What is the difference between the archive being found by a third party who wish to interfere with the archive or a second party who it is indirectly intended to be found by ? **Put simply; Once the archive has been installed the UN or anybody else have little or no method of determining who has access to it, despite any physical obstructions.**

c) Government Space Projects Versus Independently Funded Space Projects

- The BA project is going to be independently funded and is “for governments not by governments” – **or more specifically “the set-up phase is being done for government by sponsors, and even then the government is playing a part as one of the sponsors, and after that it represents the client of the project”**, all the profits from the BA project will be kept to fund future space projects.
- Pros & Cons of government space projects versus independently space projects;
- A government lead project would be more representative and objective.
- With a government funded project people/electorate may object to the project as a waste of tax-payers money and a waste of time.
- With a privately funded project there is the possibility of unlimited monetary capacity from **the private sector**. In which case this would not be a waste of time or money, furthermore technology that is uncovered when working on the project could be easily exploited and developed in other scientific fields, **without the limitations government projects sometimes have**.
- Development of the space age has produced lots of technological advancements that appear in everyday life. If the technology is invested by privately funded corporations then the corporations could use the technology in other non-space related fields. The bodies who work on the space projects (government or independent) will find along the way that the innovations for the space3 project will have applications in everyday life. When government backed bodies make scientific discoveries there is no guarantee that these will enter the public domain and have commercial applications, whereas the independent corporations would want money back from their investments, so they would make use of their discoveries for the general public and this ultimately would filter through to the economy **directly without the bureaucratic interference/delays that sometimes comes with government projects**.

d) How politics and Economics play a part in Space science and Space Exploration

- President Obama cancelled the Constellation programme and the space shuttle programme (announced by President George W Bush on 14th January 2004) in his vision for space exploration. Obama did however commit to increasing NASA funding by 6 billion dollars over the next 5 years. One can assume that the current US government is interested in space development, so would be supportive of the Archive project.
- Opportunities for countries to showcase achievements
- **The problem of the DNA being only representative of the wealthy middle classes, the BA project could be accused of preserving current political elite, but...**
- How does the archive project become fairly representational of the worlds DNA – it will only represent middle classes who have the whimsical desire to be part of it, and those that have the can afford to be part of it. This problem should be solved by the \$1 entry level.
- DNA should be taken from every part of the world representing all different races. How would the archive represent for example remaining tribes in Africa, outer Mongolia etc. and many poor people who do not have \$200 to spend or the interest to be involved (**“Entry level for a hair deposit is £50/\$75 [buys an anonymous deposit, £200 buys personal info tagged to it], and we expect a lottery option with a \$1 ticket”**).
- Characteristic features of the human race still currently vary so much across the globe that it would be important for the archive to include DNA from every ethnic minority in every nation.
- Two possible solutions are : 1. Each government pay for a member of each ethnic minority to be in the archive. However some countries may not support the idea. 2. For every individual who can afford to pay, their sponsorship funds someone who cannot afford to contribute.
- It is important that each race is represented in the archive. Currently due to world travel and the new multi-cultural and multi-racial societies that we live in, our physical features will be diluted and mixed. It may well be that physical features will be driven by health, youth and fertility, that men and women have evolved to look for in potential mates. We may all look the same in as little as 200-300 years time, interbreeding may result in bland features and a single coffee coloured skin tone. Each race should also be represented in proportion to their population, to give a balanced view. **What about personal choice?**
- Future terrestrial civilisations may be quite surprised to learn that people from different parts of the world originally looked very different. With potential climate change they could wonder why different types of skin and features evolved