



OBSERVATIONS MADE BY NASA'S MOON MINERALOGY MAPPER (M<sup>3</sup>) ON THE INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION'S CHANDRAYAAN-1 SPACECRAFT SHOWING THE PRESENCE OF WATER MOLECULES IN THE POLAR REGIONS OF THE MOON HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED BY TWO OTHER SPACECRAFT, NASA'S CASSINI AND EPOXI; WHILE THE AMOUNTS OF WATER WERE LARGER THAN PREDICTED, LEVELS ARE STILL EXTREMELY SMALL

M<sup>3</sup>'s 261-band spectrometer has located wavelengths of light that match those associated with the absorption patterns of molecules of both water and hydroxyl (made up of one hydrogen atom and one oxygen atom). Ultimately, these results point to just traces of these elements — roughly 32 ounces of water for every ton of the top layer of the lunar surface. These results were suggested by Cassini readings from 1999, but have not been confirmed until now. Findings by NASA's Epoxi craft expand on these discoveries, offering that the entire lunar surface seems "hydrated" for at least some percentage of each lunar day.

LB2009