

# What time is it on the moon? White House tells NASA to decide.



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The White House has directed NASA to establish a time standard for the moon, as the United States races to return to the moon, at a time when several countries including China and Russia, and private companies, have also set their sights on space.

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The unified time standard will be known as “Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC),” the memo says.

A standardized time reference is needed because the moon has a weaker gravitational pull than Earth due to its smaller mass, meaning that time moves slightly faster on the moon than on Earth — on average, 58.7 microseconds per day, “with additional periodic variations,” the memo says.