

Star System Reference: Devils Moon

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Eternal Knot Games

History

Discovery

The remote system of D-040307 would have been overlooked if it was not for a chance discovery by a small remote operated probe; discovery of Trioxoane - the substance that allows a Zubrin Hyperjump Drive (ZHjD) engine to operate - when the information was sold on the open market by the Interstellar Scouting Limited it was quickly snapped up by one of the major players in the Trioxoane mining field, McClelland Mining. McClelland sent a manned scout vessel to find out more information about the density, purity, and accessibility of the Trioxoane.

Devils Moon Consortium

Although the purity of the Trioxoane was high, the density and the remote location of the moon, along with the difficulty in the removal of the ore from the rocks made McClelland decide it was not commercially viable so they placed the rights to the moon back on the open market.

A few consortiums looked at the survey by both McClelland and ISL before deciding that they could afford better prospects. When a small consortium of independent miners looked at the surveys and finally decided that it was the best mining prospect that they could afford, so after some negotiating they brought the rights along with reconditioned and used machinery. For the first few decades a few tanker companies flew out to collect the unconditioned ore.

Just as life was getting comfortable for the miners there was bad news when another source of Trioxoane was discovered. Few tankers felt it was

commercially viable to go the extra distance for only a slight purity increase.

With major trouble looming the consortium decided to sell refined ore and contacted the major banks to try and get a loan to buy refinery equipment and update the rapidly aging machines; after being turned down by all the major banks they turned to the First Central Galactic Bank which, for a small share in the planet, agreed to lend the consortium the money needed.

Having refined fuel of high quality meant tankers, especially independents, started travelling the extra distance - with more money coming in they started to break even once again.

The Independent Realm of Devils Moon

When a far sighted individual, Jowan Belton, was voted in as mayor he got the consortium to buy back some of the shares the bank had in the planet at the same time he tried to push for the consortium to turn itself into an independent nation. Before he managed to convince the majority of the population of his plan he was killed in a mining accident.

Soon after his death a referendum was held, commonly known as the Belton Referendum, which the ayes were narrowly beaten by the neighs; with this both sides sat down and created a plan which would allow the best for both sides. A year later there was another referendum in which the nation of the Independent Realm of Devils Moon was born.

Growth

Belton's second plan, a refuelling station in orbit around the moon, was finally realised almost a couple of decades after his death - the station was called Belton's Dream after his dream of a nation and the refuelling station - this coupled with increased scouting missions in the outer realm meant more people came to live on Devils Moon.

The mass immigrant influx into Devils Moon forced the ruling council to create new laws that restricted what, and how many, immigrants were allowed in. They also started deporting immigrants that failed to fulfil the strict standards required; this decreased the population from almost twenty thousand back to around five thousand allowing the overstretched life support systems to operate with a greater margin of safety.

Current History

In the last six years a second, shadow, committee grew up; they propose to allow the growth of Devils Moon to its past size, to allow big corporations to set up base on the surface or in the space around the moon, and to have a regular vote for a new committee every few years. This shadow committee calling themselves, the Devils Moon Council (DMC), has got converts in the lower skilled sections while in the higher skilled sections they have gained precious few converts - a few have linked the Council with McClelland and the richer amounts of Trioxoane than at first were measured.

Planetary Data

Physical

Distance from D-040307 (Devil):
522,438 km
Radius: 2,486 km
Density: 1.4
Gravity: 0.55G
Orbit Period: 3.27 days
Rotation: 0 hrs
Mean Temp: 304K
Atmosphere: 0.13 atm (N₂ 62%,
CO₂ 16%, Ar 7%, SO₂ 5%)

Political

Population: 6,060
Law Level: Lax
Progress Level: Medium / high

Cities

Dark Harbour: 4,440
Far Side: 750
Belton's Dream: 160
New Haven: 120
Nomadic: 630

Description

Large grey plains cover most of the planet, along side these, rising steeply from the plains are mountainous crater edges, ridges, and a few mountains. On the plains there are boulders ranging from those not much bigger than fist size to those which are larger than shuttlecraft.

There is only one small body of water on the planet, up near the northern pole.



Flag of the Independent Realm of Devils Moon

Social Information

Government

As a small nation the government has only two tiers; the Board of Directors and The Committee. The lowest and largest tier is the Board of Directors and they are drawn from the richest miners on the moon and oversee the day-to-day running of Devils Moon and either suggest, or give advice, to The Committee on long term strategies. The seats on the Board are fluid and depend on the relative richness of the miners on the Board to those off the Board and are rich enough to replace a Director. The Board of Directors is refreshed once a week to reflect the new richness of the miners on the moon.

Tier two comprises of the three seats on The Committee. To join The Committee the Board of Directors have to vote for three eligible Directors they wish to be part of The Committee; each Director has three votes, a primary vote which is worth three points, a secondary vote which is worth two points, and a tertiary vote which is worth one point. A term of office lasts three years and any member of The Committee can only be removed from power with a vote of no confidence by a greater majority. The Committee decides upon the long term plans that will affect the moon and its citizens.

Extra-planetary Relations

The Independent Realm of Devils Moon does not have any extra-system governmental links not even having government officials in neighbouring systems. By the wish of The Committee, and the majority of those who live in the system, Devils Moon and its system is neutral space in any conflict and all spacecraft, unless they

break the terms of being in the Devils Moon system, is treated the same and given help if required.

Any ships that break the terms of the system, including breaking neutrality, can be heavily fined, or be banned altogether; if a spacecraft from one company, or planetary alignment, is banned then until a review is processed all ships from that source are also banned.

Crimes

Laws on the moon, especially when away from the protection afforded by the settlements and the police, are generally lax. Crimes such as theft, rape, murder, piracy, and illegal immigration are counted as high level crimes and are presided over by the Planetary Magistrates. Low level crimes have lesser penalties and are normally handed out by the local police force or in areas that are controlled by a co-operative protection agency by their agents.

In areas where the control of the police is limited, or absent, there are co-operative protection agencies that charge miners for their protection. A few of these groups are not much better than the criminals themselves but the vast majority are honest and will do their best to look after their members either by defending them or by proactively defending the miners by heading after the bandits.

Pleasure

Music is one of the largest industries on the planet behind mining and essential supplies. Some of large bars have live

entertainment, either singers with computer generated music backing, or complete live bands. Smaller bars, nightclubs, and home entertainment usually listen to fully computer generated music or recordings of live bands. The most popular films, shown in cinemas, or the homes of individual citizens, are locally created - there is one full time production house and three part time production houses. Imported films are not displayed in the cinemas and are normally shown late at night.

Sports, both watching and participating in, are other forms of popular entertainment. The major sports played are rugby with special rules for the lower gravity and long distance endurance races, both on foot and in vehicles. The final, and perhaps the most popular sport, is a complex game of tag which is officially known as Devils Moon Tag.

Production Houses

There are four production houses on the moon, three of them are part time and often work together to create feature length films, or individually to create shorter pieces. Hourglass Productions is the fourth production house and is part of the Broadcast Association and has successfully exported some of its films to the open market.

The physiological horror film *Alone* is the most successful film released by Devils Moon to the open market. All four production houses worked on *Alone* and it is still a popular film on Devils Moon and won awards in various film festivals through out the galaxy. *Alone* is about a solo miner out in the Unexplored Regions looking for Trioxoane when his vehicle is buried when caught in a