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Micro Probe for Exploration of Potential Lunar Lava Tube

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Recent images suggest that the Moon may have collapsed lava tubes, similar to that found on Earth, e.g., Undara in Australia. In order to determine whether, or not, these features are in fact entrances to tubes, it is necessary to obtain lateral images from low level within the feature. This could be achieved by a micro-probe (or lander) of similar size to (or smaller than) Philae, released from a spacecraft in lunar orbit. This presentation discusses some key technical challenges that need to be addressed to permit such a mission.