KYNTHOS

ROLE BRIEF · NOVEMBER 2026

Chief Scientist

Remote in the United States considered. Full time; no management line.

ABOUT KYNTHOS

Kynthos is developing custody tracking and analytics of objects in extra-geosynchronous orbit (xGEO) and to the Moon, cooperative or not, to be delivered as a software service. Custody means holding an object inside a stated uncertainty bound and revisiting it often enough to find it again. Kynthos flies no sensors of its own at the start: it buys or rents time on ground-based optical and radar sensors and on partner sensors in orbit, decides where each should look next, and fuses what they return into one custody record per object. For finer and more continuous custody, and for custody out of ground contact, it plans to fly its own constellation of optical observers. Cislunar space is nearly empty, yet it has produced a near miss between two lunar orbiters (2021) and rocket-stage impacts (2022, 2026); 116 to about 330 lunar missions are planned over the next decade. Cislunar threat detection is national policy (Executive Order 14369), and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) order 26-47 will require lunar operators to register with an approved space situational awareness provider. Kynthos, Inc. has filed two provisional patents, is in STAGE's first cohort and is preparing a pre-seed round.

THE ROLE

Owns the estimation and tasking science: short-arc initial orbit determination in multi-body dynamics, multi-target custody filtering and information-gain sensor tasking. As of 6 October 2026 no company had shown custody of a non-cooperative object at the Moon; the deliverable is the science that does, and the papers that defend it.

FIRST-YEAR DELIVERABLES

- Custody performance bounds for each class of object.
- The Gate 1 benchmark protocol, pre-registered in Q2 2027 with a university partner.
- Coordinated custody tracking of cislunar resident space objects as operator letters of intent come in, starting with a replay of the 5 August 2026 Falcon 9 lunar impact.

WHO FITS

- A doctorate in astrodynamics, estimation theory or a closely related field.
- A first-author record in cislunar orbit determination, multi-target tracking or sensor tasking, about two to ten years past the doctorate.
- In industry, at a national laboratory or at a federally funded research center; current university faculty are outside the scope of this seat.

TERMS

- Restricted stock and a base salary from the close of the round that funds the seat; any earlier work is on advisor or consulting terms.
- Starts in the second month after the round close.
- **Process:** a conversation with the founder, then a mutual non-disclosure agreement.

Sources: ISRO, 2021; NASA, 2022 and 2026; Analysys Mason; Novaspace; 90 FR 60537; FCC 26-47; USPTO; GeekWire, 2026.

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