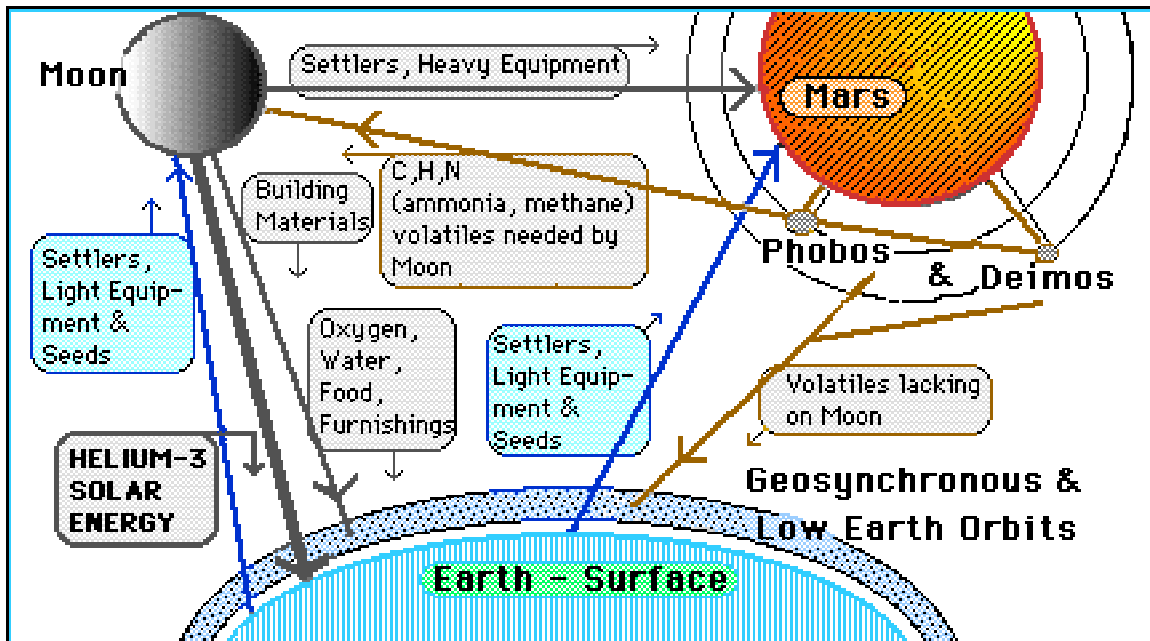


Inner Solar System Trade Routes



- **Because Earth's Gravity Well is so deep**, anything that can be produced in space (on the Moon, Mars, Phobos and Deimos, or on the asteroids) once the investment in capital equipment is amortized, for in-space markets (Earth orbit, Moon, Mars, asteroids) will be less expensive than producing that item on Earth and boosting it into space.
- **Distance** is less important than **Shipping Costs**
- **Earth** is the logical source for things that can't initially be produced elsewhere:
 - settlers and tourists
 - light and/or sophisticated high tech equipment and components
 - tools
 - seeds
- **The Moon** is a better source for anything that can be made out of steel, aluminum, magnesium, titanium, silicon, concrete, glass, and silicate ceramics. Manufacture there of heavy items for which there is a good market, makes sense, whether they are needed on the Moon, or in Earth orbit (to help build space stations, orbiting factories, or orbiting tourist hotels), or for Mars-bound expeditions. The Moon could eventually be a cheaper source of food and fuel for Earth orbit facilities.
- **Deimos** and **Phobos**, Mars two moonlets, could be a cheaper source (than Earth) of those volatile elements in which the Moon is deficient. Such trade would help pay for the opening of Mars.