

Operation Plan of LUNAR-A Penetrator

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A spacecraft for LUNAR-A will be launched in 1999 from Kagoshima Space Center, using a M-V launch vehicle. Two penetrators will be deployed from spacecraft onto the lunar surface, and will construct a seismic and heat-flow measurement network.

It is the most important operation to infer the communicable region, in which the penetrator can communicate with the spacecraft, from results of communications links in order to ensure the start and end time of links between the penetrators and the spacecraft. At the initial stage, it will be spent most of time for the operation mentioned above. The current status of LUNAR-A mission and an operation plan of LUNAR-A penetrator are reported.