

A004-003

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Asteroid Itokawa observed by Hayabusa

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An engineering spacecraft Hayabusa launched in May 2003 reached the location 20km distant from a near-Earth asteroid Itokawa on Sept. 12, 2005. The spacecraft made observations of Itokawa in the regions closer to the asteroid and made touch down to the asteroid surface twice. In this lecture the properties of Itokawa observed by Hayabusa is summarized with some introductions on asteroids.