

Status of TOPS Project

Yukihiro Takahashi[1]; Takeshi Sakanoi[2]; Makoto Taguchi[3]; Naomoto Iwagami[4]; Atsushi Yamazaki[5]; Makoto Suzuki[6]; Naoki Terada[7]; Fuminori Tsuchiya[8]; Takeshi Horinouchi[9]; Kensuke Nakajima[10]; Kazuya Yoshida[11]; Yuji Sakamoto[12]; Takahashi Yukihiro TOPS Science WG[13]

[1] Dept. of Geophysics, Tohoku Univ.; [2] PPARC, Grad. School of Sci., Tohoku Univ.; [3] NIPR; [4] Earth and Planetary Science, U Tokyo; [5] PPARC, Tohoku Univ.; [6] ISAS/JAXA; [7] NICT/JST; [8] Planet. Plasma Atmos. Res. Cent., Tohoku Univ.; [9] RISH, Kyoto Univ.; [10] Dept. of Earth & Planetary Sci., Faculty of Sci., Kyushu Univ.; [11] Dept. Aeronautics and Space Eng., Tohoku Univ.; [12] Aerospace Engineering, Tohoku Univ.; [13] -

The planetary space telescope mission named TOPS was proposed as the new small satellite mission. TOPS working group in committee of JAXA/ISAS was approved recently and the phase of the project proceed to next step. Simultaneous operation of small space telescope in the earth orbit synchronized with planetary orbiter missions maximizes scientific outputs. The 30cm reflector on 300 kg-class satellite would be enough to monitor meso-scale atmospheric and/or plasma phenomena in planets in the solar system. Making use of complementary aspects of in-situ mission and TOPS are the important strategy for planetary science, as well as ground-based and balloon-born telescopes.