

Japanese Scientific Exploration of Mars in 2010's

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Together with researchers at universities and institutes, JAXA is creating a long-term roadmap for solar system explorations. Mars is one of future targets.

Probable mission would not depend on large spacecrafts. Probably combination of NOZOMI-class spacecrafts would be plausible mission. Monitoring climate and upper atmosphere by two spacecrafts would provide new information even if Mars Scout mission would precede to study the escape of the atmosphere.

Surface exploration can be tackled by small lander or penetrator, where analysis of surface materials as well as interior information would be obtained.