

Status of the LUNAR-A project and future explorations of the interior of the moon and planets

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The Space Activity Commission (SAC) of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) decided on the LUNAR-A project to be terminated at 7th, Feb. 2007.

In the present report, we represent the general information on the LUNAR-A project, circumstances of the developments of the LUNAR-A space craft and penetrators, actions to the present status of the project, obvious causes of the delay of the project, and obtained gains by this project. The information of the LUNAR-A project includes the scientific objectives of this mission, the special technical system of the space craft and penetrators, management system and schedule to develop these space craft and penetrators, and description in detail how things came to this pass. The information also includes reason why the project was delayed, the judgments on the project by several independent counsel, and recent status of the space craft and penetrators.

The above mentioned report of SAC at Feb. 2007, describes the advices on the usage of the LUNAR-A space craft, and the development into the completed penetrators by using the final configuration of the penetrator system, although the present penetrator endures the intense shock stress at the impact of the penetration. The advices also represent the proceed with refinement of the penetrators for the objective of the exploration of the interior of the moon and other planets, by using the penetrators on board the Japanese space crafts and/or foreign space crafts.