

On the modifications to the Satellite Seismic Telemetry System

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The Satellite Seismic Telemetry System of the Japanese universities, which began operation in 1997, have undergone a major modification in the December 2006. The contract with the satellite company was renewed and all the VSATs and hubs has been transferred to the newly launched geostationary satellite JCSAT-5A from the old N-STARb because its lifetime expired. At the transfer, the number of VSATs of the NEC system was reduced from 224 to 40. At the same time, the function of data distribution by a 6 Mbps satellite channel was deleted from the system. The function of data distribution was transferred from satellite to the high-speed surface lines such as JGN2 or NTT B-Flet's. The NEC VSAT stations remained are all scheduled to be abandoned in 2008, as well as their two hubs in Tokyo and Gunma. The DVB-based satellite data distribution experiment, which began in 2003, was also finished at the renewal of contract. The number of the Nanometrics VSATs reached 85 in 2006, and now they are the main body of our satellite system. The Nanometrics system has its hubs in Tokyo and Komoro, and the VSATs are being extensively used in joint observations. In the March 2007, a newly developed VSAT system by Hakusan Corp. was introduced. It has presently 19 VSATs and two hubs in Tokyo and Komoro, and is expected to take a major part of our satellite system as well as the Nanometrics.