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SOLAR-C: The Next Solar Observing Satellite

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<http://hinode.nao.ac.jp/SOLAR-C/>

JAXA SOLAR-C Working Group is planning the next solar observing satellite SOLOAR-C that follows Hinode (SOLAR-B) in orbit. Two plans, Plan-A and Plan-B, are concurrently examined. Plan-A is a plan by a spacecraft that is in an out-of-ecliptic interplanetary orbit to observe the polar regions of the Sun. In the Plan-A mission the solar dynamo and the dynamics of the solar interior by helioseismic and magnetic field observations from an unprecedented vantage point is one of the main topics. Plan-B is a plan by a spacecraft in a sun-synchronous low-earth orbit or a geostationary orbit. It is a high-spatial resolution mission by largely enhanced spectroscopic and spectro-polarimetric observations. With these new capabilities the fundamental physical processes in the heating and the dynamics of solar atmosphere are explored. The SOLAR-C Science Definition Meeting was held with the participation of many foreign scientists under the support of JAXA and ESA last November, and the mission is highly anticipated by the solar physicists over the world. The SOLAR-C working group wishes to realize the launch of spacecraft around the middle of the 2010's.