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SOLAR-C: the next solar observing satellite

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The JAXA SOLAR-C Working Group is planning the next solar observing satellite SOLAR-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 understand the origin of magnetic fields on the Sun and the polar-region magnetic activity. 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 are the central 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 in the Plan-B. Fundamental studies for the mission proposal are being done under the contribution of foreign scientists and engineers. Some developments for a future instrumentation have also started in this context.

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