

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2011

(May 22-27 2011 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

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PEM030-P12

Room:Convention Hall

Time:May 26 10:30-13:00

Measurement result of the neutron monitor onboard Space Environment Data Acquisition Equipment (SEDA-AP)

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To support future space activities, it is very important to acquire space environmental data related to space radiation degradation of space parts and materials and spacecraft anomalies. Such data are useful for spacecraft design and manned space activity.

SEDA-AP was mounted on "Kibo" of ISS (International Space Station) to measure the space environment of the 400 kilometres altitude for 3 years.

Neutrons are very harmful radiation because of their strong permeability attributable to its electrical neutrality. The Neutron Monitor measures the energy of neutrons from thermal to 100 MeV in real time using a Bonner Ball Detector and a Scintillation Fiber Detector. The Bonner Ball Detector discriminates neutrons from other charged particles using ³He counters, which have high sensitivity to thermal neutrons. It also measures neutron energy using the relative response, which corresponds to different polyethylene moderator's thickness (6 pcs.). The Scintillation Fiber Detector measures the track of incident particles using a cubic arrangement sensor on which are heaped up 512 scintillation fibers. The sensor discriminates neutrons using differences of these tracks, and measures neutron energy by measuring its track length.

This paper reports the development, mission objectives, instrumentation and current status of neutron monitor.

Keywords: Neutron monitor, Kibo, ISS, Exposed facility, SEDA-AP