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Scientific targets of the LIDAR onboard Hayabusa2

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The asteroid explorer Hayabusa2 will carry a LIDAR that is an instrument for laser ranging between the spacecraft and the asteroid. Although its primal purpose is navigation and guidance of the spacecraft, LIDAR data also will be valuable for scientific analyses. Scientific aim of the Hayabusa 2 LIDAR includes to give an accurate position of the spacecraft relative to the target asteroid; to determine the mass of the asteroid; and to measure albedo of the asteroid surface.

Keywords: asteroid, LIDAR, Hayabusa 2, gravity field, density, internal structure