Conceptual study on Japanese altimetry mission

UEMATSU, Akihisa¹, The Altimetry mission study team¹

¹Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Measurement of sea surface height is important in satellite measurement of ocean as well as sea surface temperature, ocean color, sea surface wind velocity, etc. JAXA has started a conceptual study on a new altimetry mission. In the mission, using an interferometric synthetic aperture radar (In-SAR) with two antennas, wide-swath measurement of sea surface height is aimed. Studies on target specification and system feasibilities are ongoing.

The main four purposes of the mission are as follows;

Forecasting of the ocean current;
The aim is to improve the tidal model and forecasting of the ocean current especially in coastal regions and marginal seas using four-dimensional assimilation. Improvement of ocean current forecasting is expected for estimation of current drift caused by ocean accidents, efficiency of marine navigation, and diffusion of radioactive material.

Fishery;
The aim is to observe ocean phenomena related to fishery places, such as Kuroshio-front and ocean surface topography from mesoscale to submesoscale.

Disaster;
The aim is to improve Tsunami forecast model using inversion method through the observation of Tsunami waves caused by an earthquake in far region.

Geoid and seafloor topography;
The aim is to improve sea floor topography model through improvement of geoid model.

We will present current status of the conceptual study.

Keywords: altimetry, ocean current, fishery, disaster, geoid, interferometric synthetic aperture radar