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JUICE 計画への参加が意味するもの What does it mean to participate in the JUICE mission?

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Boosted by the discovery of exo-planets, the habitability issue is becoming more and more of an central issue in planetary science. An icy moon with a sub-surface ocean is a focal point of discussion in this line. In May 2012, ESA selected JUICE as its L-class mission to be launched in 2022. The main target of the JUICE mission is Ganymede, an icy moon that orbits around Jupiter.

The AO for the intruments to be onboard the JUICE mission was issued in July 2012. At the time of writing, the results of the AO is yet to be released in Febuary 2013. There are several groups from Japan that are playing roles in the proposal teams led by European-PIs. When (any of) these teams win, that is the time that the door for the outer-solar system exploration is opened for Japanese planetary science community. Furthermore, it is the first mission ever to orbit around an icy moon and it goes without saying that JUICE is a world-class mission.

What does this opportunity means for the Japanese community? In parallel to this participation to the world-class international collaboration project, what others should be planned and executed by the community? It is designed that this talk will trigger such a discussion.

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