

What does it mean to participate in the JUICE mission?

Masaki Fujimoto^{1*}

¹ISAS, JAXA

Boosted by the discovery of exo-planets, the habitability issue is becoming more and more of a 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 instruments 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 February 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 mean 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.

Keywords: International collaboration, Exploration of icy moons