

MIT: a Chinese Space Mission in Pre-study Phase MIT: a Chinese Space Mission in Pre-study Phase

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MIT is short for Magnetosphere-Ionosphere-Thermosphere Coupling Constellation Mission. It is designed to study the coupling between magnetosphere, ionosphere and thermosphere. The scientific objective of the mission is to focus on the outflow ions from the ionosphere to the magnetosphere. The constellation is planning to be composed of four spacecrafts, each spacecraft has its own orbit and crosses the polar region at the nearly the same time but at different altitude. With different payloads on-board each spacecraft, we will be able to track the polar upflow ions and study the acceleration mechanism at different altitude. Currently the we are investigating the orbit, the payloads and the strategy for the spacecraft. This phase will end in Oct, 2014, then it will compete for next phase selection.

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