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Development of a lunar broadband seismometer system for SELENE-2

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SELENE-2 is planed to be the first Japanese landing mission on the moon. As a strong candidate for an onboard instrument, we propose a lunar broadband seismometer system (LBBS). We have already presented the necessity of the broadband seismic observation beyond the Apollo seismic observation, requirements for the system, scientific objectives from the analyses of Apollo seismic data and the status of the development of LBBS. In this presentation, we introduce the recent progress in the development.

LBBS is a seismometer system having a broader bandwidth of 0.02 to 50 Hz and higher sensitivity than the seismic sensors of the Apollo project. To achieve the required performance at low risk, we decided to integrate an existing short period sensor (SP) and long period sensor (LP) in one package. The SP sensor is based on the velocity sensor developed in the course of the former Lunar-A project and has very high shock durability. The LP sensor is the VBB seismometer developed in France for the ExoMars project of ESA. These sensors shall be modified to satisfy the requirements of very high sensitivity and high stability against the severe surface environment on the moon. In addition, LBBS is composed of measurement and control electronics (ETHZ, Switzerland), leveling system (MPI, Germany) and a thermal shield, called survival module, with a recorder, communication circuits and batteries (JAXA, Japan).

We have carried out interface tests of 7 combinations among the components since autumn of 2010. In particular, we confirmed wellness of a partially integrated system of the SP sensor, measurement electronics and leveling system in an interface test at Zurich from Dec 2010 to Mar 2011. We successfully observed faint seismic tremors in ground motions. In July 2012, we carried out an interface test in which we integrated the SP, LP and leveling system at the Black Forest Observatory, Germany. For comparison, we also recorded outputs of a standard broadband sensor STS-2. All data outputs were recorded by an acquisition system of Quanterra Q330HR.

We analyzed the data so obtained, and found that waveforms obtained by LP and STS-2 almost similar one another and confirmed that LP can faithfully acquire ground motions irrespective of the neighboring SP. It, however, sometimes shows different waveforms from those of STS-2. The cause of this phenomenon is under investigation. On the other hand, SP data show very noisy time series not considered as ground motions. Spectra of the SP data show a flat shape and we cannot recognize spectral features of seismic tremors. Moreover, two horizontal SP sensors with an eigenperiod of 1 sec commonly took boxcar type off sets in the long period waveforms low-pass-filtered with a corner frequency of 0.1 Hz. This is an unacceptable result. They should show independent noises at such a low frequency much below 1 Hz. Thus we conclude that the SP data were polluted from an unknown source.

Potential causes of this phenomenon is (1) noises and instability in a 20 times amplifier, (2) an interference due to output impedance of the 20 times amplifier which may be out of range of the guarantee of Q330HR and (3) an electro-magnetic interference of LP on SP. We have already excluded the possibility of (1) by measuring the response of the amplifier using another acquisition device. In order to distinguish (2) and (3), we plan to obtain SP data without LP using Q330HR which will be rented.

In addition to the report on the above interface test, we also report results of vibration and thermal environment tests for two new manufacturing SP sensor models, and conceptual design of the survival module.

Keywords: seismometer, noise, interference, moonquake, ground motion, measurement