

Current status of mission study for small scale planetary exploration in JSPS

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Recent success of launching a new Japanese rocket named as Epsilon gives us a new chance for planetary exploration. So, we just begin to discuss a new planetary exploration mission suitable for this Epsilon rocket in Japanese Society of Planetary Science (JSPS). Future planning section in JSPS has examined the small size mission for planetary exploration since last summer, and the special working group for this purpose in this section was organized to submit our report showing the scientific feasibility in a small size mission to a vice-president of JSPS. The final report is shown on the web-site of <https://www.wakusei.jp/~shourai/wiki/epsilon/>. A new load map for space science in Japan by JAXA was released last september, and it showed that the exploration of solar system would be planned in a small scale mission in order to overcome technical problems and develop new devices for the future planetary exploration planned after 10 years. According to this new load map related to planetary science, we have decided to discuss a future mission of small scale planetary exploration by using Epsilon rocket in JSPS fall meeting. We are going to hold a symposium to discuss a future plan regularly in 2014, and our symposium is open not only for JSPS member but also for every scientist and engineer who are interested in a small scale planetary exploration.

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