



ISAS/JAXA Small Body Exploration Program

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Space science program of Japan to be implemented by Institute of Space and Astronautical Science of Japan Aerospace eXploration Agency (ISAS/JAXA) has gone through a restructuring and now multiple mission categories are clearly defined. Among them are two mission classes to be led by ISAS, the L-class to be launched by H-IIA/III launchers and the M-class to be launched by a smaller solid motor of Epsilon. The two mission classes welcome foreign participation to maximize the science output from the missions. A channel to participate in foreign grand missions that ISAS cannot afford is also clearly set. These restructurings reflect the strong interest of the relevant Japanese communities to be involved in and to lead in some areas of the world-wide effort of promoting space science. Small body exploration, a tool in planetary science that has the strongest relevance to understanding the origin of the solar system, is clearly the focal point of ISAS planetary missions. Here I would like to discuss how we formulate our Small Body Exploration Program by utilizing the three channels described above, with various international collaboration elements embedded in it.