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Japanese First Moon Lander SELENE-2

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To establish the more concrete and practical project plan for the JAXA-2025 long-term vision, JAXA organized three task force teams crossing the all JAXA's institutes, in April 2006. Those three task forces are for Future Space Transportation, Space Robot, and LPET (Lunar and Planetary Exploration Team). LPET was also organized from three sub teams; those are SELENE follow-on, Human Moon Outpost, and Solar system exploration. Almost all members of the SELENE follow-on sub-team are organized from the former SELENE-B team, to utilize the results of SELENE-B concept study.

In the SELENE-2 concept study in the last year, we have started from three mission aspects; those are science, utilization, and technology development. As the first stage work, those aspects are integrated into common and basic missions and optional missions. For the lander size, two options have been examined, one is the full H-2A payload size and other is half H-2A, same to SELENE-B size. For the landing site, the eternal light region at lunar pole is considered as the most promising landing site, in addition to the vicinity of crater central peaks. For the payload, a small rover for the investigation around lander has been considered as most promissing payload, during the cooperation with the Space robot task force team.

In the presentation, we will report the latest status of the SELENE-2 project, now preparing to apply as the Japanese space project for the space exploration.