



Present Status and Science Goals of the SELENE Mission

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Lunar orbiting satellite SELENE has completed after final integration tests of thermal-vacuum and electromagnetic compatibility in the end of February 2007. Through pre-shipping reviews the satellite is just being carried to launch site of JAXA TKSC for 2007 summer launch. The SELENE has started in 1998 FY as a joint mission of ISAS and NASDA, which have been merged into a space agency JAXA in October 2003. The SELENE project is certainly identified as a JAXA's science mission. End-to-end GDST (Ground Data System Test) has also ended successfully in SOAC (SELENE Operation and data Analysis Center) of Sagamihara/JAXA.

Key questions on lunar science are “What's origin of the Moon?”, “How does the Moon have evolved?”, and “What history does the lunar environment have passed?”. Science topics to be studied by using 14 science instruments are surface composition of chemistry and mineralogy, evolution tectonics of surface including subsurface to 5 km depth, gravity field of whole moon and magnetic field distribution for the study on origin and evolution of the Moon. Lunar environment are investigated in observing charged and neutral particles impinged on the surface.

High definition TV camera also onboard the SELENE for public outreach.