



Present Status of Planet-C in 2007

M. Nakamura(1), T. Satoh(1), T. Imamura(1), M. Suzuki(1), T. Abe(1), and N. Ishii(1)

(1) Institute of Space and Astronautical Science of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

The start of the Japanese first Venus Exploration program was in 2001, and last year (2006) we moved it to Phase C after PDR in August. Since we reported the project status in 2005, some situation around the project have changed.

At first the launch vehicle is changed. Now we expect H-IIA rocket to launch the Planet-C spacecraft from the Tanegashima Space Center (TNSC) in Kagoshima. With this modification, we changed some minor design of the spacecraft and the total weight of the spacecraft is slightly heavier than that adjusted to M-V rocket. But there was no need to change the basic design of the spacecraft. The launch window will be summer in 2010 and arrive at Venus in December 2010. The spacecraft will be directly put into the interplanetary orbit by the 2nd stage of H-IIA.

Planet-C project has been managed by Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS) of JAXA since its start of the program. From April 2007, this project is managed by newly established Lunar and Planetary Exploration Center of JAXA. Most of the project members also hold the posts in ISAS and we expect the very similar project management for Planet-C of ISAS, even after we move to the new center.

Now we are designing and manufacturing the Mechanical and Thermal engineering Model (MTM) which will end in middle of 2007 and we will shake it and do the thermal vacuum test. Later this model will be modified to the flight model and the final integration test will be in 2009 which takes 1 year.