



JAXA/BepiColombo Project: Current Status of the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter

H. Hayakawa, H. Ogawa, Y. Sone, Y. Kasaba, T. Takashima, A. Matsuoka, M. Fujimoto, M. Kato, T. Okada, T. Mukai, and JAXA/BepiColombo Project

Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Japan (kasaba@isas.jaxa.jp / +81-42-759-8169)

BepiColombo / Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO) is and mostly dedicated to the first detailed study of magnetic field, waves, and particle environment of the planet Mercury. Four main scientific targets are set for the MMO spacecraft from the BepiColombo mission objectives. They are expected to significantly advance comparative studies of the magnetic fields and magnetospheres of terrestrial planets: 1) Structure and origin of Mercury's magnetic field, 2) Structure, dynamics, and physical processes in Mercury's magnetosphere, 3) Structure, variation, and origin of Mercury's exosphere, and 4) The inner solar system. In this talk, current status of the JAXA/BepiColombo project, 1) MMO spacecraft, 2) MMO payloads, and 3) MPO payloads procured from Japan are summarized. Some scientific news and science operation plans will also be covered.