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Present Status of Venus Climate Orbiter development in 2008

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Venus Climate Orbiter (VCO, project name is Planet-C) is the first Japanese Venus orbiter to be launched in 2010. It aims at studying the atmospheric dynamics of Venus. We keep the time schedule of VCO development at ISAS/JAXA with the collaboration with university researchers and industrial engineers.

In this talk we will report the present status of the VCO development in 2008. We have finished the Proto-Model integration test of major components of VCO in December 2007. Mechanical engineering model of the spacecraft has been built and its evaluation was done at Tsukuba Space Center and Sagamihara campus. The vibration levels are mostly consistent with the results from the mathematical modeling. It has been converted to the thermal test model and is under evaluation in the thermal vacuum chamber at Sagamihara. The results will be reported in this talk.

In March 2008, we will have the CDR for the phase-up (to Phase D). After the CDR, flight model of VCO will be built by NEC Corp. and ISAS/JAXA. It will be finalized by 2009 and the final integration test will be done during whole 2009.