

Present Status of Japanese Lunar Mission SELENE

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The Japanese lunar mission SELENE has completed its development. The SELENE satellites were shipped to JAXA's launch site of Tanegashima Space Center TNSC in an island 1500 km southwest of Tokyo. The final check-outs are performing to the end of this May after reintegration of bus system and science payloads. After then the satellite will be fixed on the top of launch vehicle H2A, and moved to launch complex. Launch targets are planned to be in next August to September. It will take two weeks to reach lunar orbit insertion LOI after launch by applying phasing orbit between the Earth and moon. Main orbiter will attain to nominal observation orbit of altitude 100 km polar at 40 days after launch. We use about two months for initial check out and power-on of payloads. Ten months will be nominal observation period since the initial check phase. The SELENE is remote-sensing mission to collect the data for studying the origin and evolution of the Moon. There are fourteen instruments and experiments prepared for studies of the Moon, in the Moon, and from the Moon.