

Present Status of Japanese Venus Climate Orbiter

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The start of the Japanese Venus Exploration program was in 2001, and last year (2006) we moved it to Phase C after PDR in August. We would like to report the present status of our Venus Climate Orbiter.

Planet-C is the project name in ISAS/JAXA. The launch vehicle is changed from M-V to H-IIA. It will be launched from Tanegashima Space Center (TNSC) in Kagoshima. With this modification, we changed some minor design of the spacecraft and the total weight is slightly heavier than before, but the basic design has not been modified. The launch window will be kept in summer in 2010 and it will arrive at Venus in December 2010. The spacecraft will be directly put into the interplanetary orbit.

Now we are preparing the Mechanical and Thermal engineering Model (MTM) which will end in middle of 2007 and 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.

Development of all the science instruments are going well. The first integration test of science instruments will be in August this year. We can report the results of it in the meeting.