OKEANOS - the Solar Power Sail Mission for Science exploration of Jupiter Trojan Asteroid by Rendezvous and Landing

*岡田 達明^{1,2}、癸生川 陽子³、青木 順⁴、河井 洋輔⁴、横田 勝一郎⁴、斎藤 義文¹、寺田 健太郎⁴、豊田 岐聡⁴、伊藤 元雄⁵、薮田 ひかる⁶、圦本 尚義^{1,7}、岡本 千里⁸、松浦 周二⁹、津村 耕司¹⁰、米徳 大輔¹¹ 、三原 建弘¹²、松岡 彩子¹、野村 麗子¹、矢野 創¹、平井 隆之¹³、中村 良介¹⁴、ウラメッツ シュテ ファン¹⁵、ヤウマン ラルフ¹⁵、ビブリン ジャンピエール¹⁶、岩田 隆浩¹、松本 純¹、中条 俊大¹、佐伯 孝尚¹、加藤 秀樹¹、森 治¹、川口 淳一郎¹ *Tatsuaki Okada^{1,2}, Yoko Kebukawa³, Jun Aoki⁴, Yosuke Kawai⁴, Shoichiro Yokota⁴, Yoshifumi Saito¹, Kentaro Terada⁴, Michisato Toyoda⁴, Motoo Ito⁵, Hikaru Yabuta⁶, Hisayoshi Yurimoto^{1,7}, Chisato Okamoto⁸, Shuji Matsuura⁹, KOHJI TSUMURA¹⁰, Daisuke Yonetoku¹¹, Tatehiro Mihara¹², Ayako Matsuoka¹, Reiko Nomura¹, Hajime Yano¹, Takayuki Hirai¹³, Ryosuke Nakamura¹⁴, Stephan Ulamec¹⁵, Ralf Jaumann¹⁵, Jean-Pierre Bibring¹⁶, Takahiro Iwata¹, Jun Matsumoto¹, Toshihiro Chujo¹, Takanao Saiki¹, Hideki Kato¹, Osamu Mori¹, Junichiro Kawaguchi¹

1. 宇宙航空研究開発機構宇宙科学研究所、2. 東京大学、3. 横浜国立大学、4. 大阪大学、5. 海洋研究開発機構高知コア研究 所、6. 広島大学、7. 北海道大学、8. 法政大学、9. 関西学院大学、10. 東北大学、11. 金沢大学、12. 理化学研究所、13. 千 葉工業大学、14. 産業技術総合研究所、15. ドイツ航空宇宙センター、16. フランス宇宙天体物理学研究所 1. Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 2. University of Tokyo, 3. Yokohama National University, 4. Osaka University, 5. Kochi Institute for Core Sample Research, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, 6. Hiroshima University, 7. Hokkaido University, 8. Hosei University, 9. Kwansei Gakuin University, 10. Tohoku University, 11. Kanazawa University, 12. RIKEN, 13. Chiba Institute of Technology, 14. National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, 15. German Aerospace Center (DLR), 16. Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale (IAS)

The Solar Power Sail OKEANOS (Oversize Kite-craft for Exploration and AstroNautics in the Outer Solar system) is under study in Japan to rendezvous with and land on a Jupiter Trojan asteroid [1]. It is primarily an engineering mission but also a key science mission for understanding the solar system origin and evolution by conducting in-depth investigations, complementary to LUCY [2], which flybys six Jupiter Trojans to understand the variation and diversity of them. The OKEANOS lander and science experiments are jointly studied between Japan and Europe [3]. The scientific objectives and the strawman payloads for this mission are described here.

Jupiter Trojan asteroids are classified as volatile-rich D- or P-types. They might be moved from outer region of solar system due to planetary migration [4]. Those bodies should have 20 to 30 km in size for landing site selection (LSS) since it is large enough to classify its taxonomy by ground observations but small enough for landing on it easily due to its low escape velocity.

The spacecraft consists of a main orbiter and a lander. The orbiter has a large area solar power sail which rotates at 0.1 rpm and weighs ca. 1,400 kg. The lander within the mass of 100 kg has the main body size within ϕ 650 x 400 mm, with the extensible legs and sampling devices. The life time of the lander is 22 hours, using a primary battery of 600 W-Hour for the mission. The bitrate of 1 Mbps from the lander to the main orbiter enables to transfer more than 500 Mbytes of data in 5 hours. The spacecraft will be launched in mid-2020s, accelerated by gravity assists of Earth and Jupiter. It will take ca. 13 years to arrive at the target asteroid. Plan-A is a one-way trip to the target asteroid, and Plan-A' adds another Trojan asteroid rendezvous. Plan-B is a return trip from a Jupiter Trojan asteroid to Earth. Mission payloads should be within 30 kg on the main orbiter and within 20 kg on the lander.

Physical, mineralogical, and isotopic studies of surface materials and volatile compounds could provide a clue to understanding the origin and evolution processes of the target body, as well as the solar system formation. To achieve these goals, in situ surface experiments with the lander as well as global mapping from the main orbiter are required. After arrival, the target asteroid will be globally investigated through remote sensing, and for the landing site selection. The asteroid will be characterized and investigated such as high-resolved surface global mapping by using an optical telescopic imager, and a near-infrared and a thermal-infrared hyperspectral imager. A lander will observe the surface materials and physical properties of the surrounding area, and to conduct in situ analysis (hyperspectral microscopy for solids, and high-res. mass spectrometry for volatiles) for the materials sampled from asteroid surface and subsurface. Collected samples will be viewed with a visible to infrared microscope (covering 1 to 4 μ m) with a spatial resolution of ca. 20 μ m per pixel to identify and classify each grain. Those samples will be heated by step heating, pyrolysis, and gas-chromatography for high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS). Mass resolution m/ Δ m > 30,000 is required to investigate isotopic ratios of D/H, ¹⁵N/¹⁴N, and ¹⁸O/¹⁶O $(M=1^{3}0)$, as well as molecules from organic matters (M = 10 to 300). In addition, technical feasibility and science requests of sample return is discussed for the Plan-B, especially in thermal design of sample box in the reentry capsule [5].

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