

Collaboration between Japan and Vietnam for the MicroDragon micro-satellite project

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MicroDragon is the first 50 kg class microsatellite of Vietnam National Satellite Center (VNSC). It is being developed by VNSC researchers under instruction of the Japanese professors come from five universities including Hokkaido University, The University of Tokyo, Keio University, Tohoku University and Kyushu Institute of Technology. Hokkaido University has been responsible for the development of the science payloads based on the demands and requirements from the scientific point of view.

Vietnam has a long coastal line with about 7% households in the fishery. Seafood plays an important role in developing Vietnam economics. However, with increasing exploitation, natural aquatic resources are decreasing quickly. Development of aquaculture is necessary for a sustainable economics. To do this, Vietnam needs an effective system which is an integration of remote sensing and sea water sampling to monitor coastal water quality. Therefore, Mission of MicroDragon is ocean color observation to provide data to researchers in fishery field and scientists in oceanography for assessing water quality and locating living resources. We will use two imagers being composed of Space-borne multispectral Imager and Triple Polarization Imager onboard and Fluoro probes in the sea for the missions.

The development of MicroDragon is planned to be finished by the end of 2017. By now, the project is heading to Preliminary Design Review in September 2015 after two years implementation since 2013.