

**Project organization, status and plan:  
Establishing researchers groups and a science team**

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The scientists in the lidar community in Japan have been long involved in space-borne lidar studies and supported the NASDA's activity in this field. The Mission Demonstration Satellite/Lidar Team, a researchers group which was organized under the "Committee of Earth Observation system"; ESTO/Forum (Earth Science and Technology Organization/Earth Science and Technology Forum). The MDS Lidar Team has been working to support and promote the NASDA's project for a space-borne lidar.

Several scientists from universities and national institutes have been working with NASDA as Visiting Engineers for Office of Research and Development. This scientists group act as advisors from the engineering side.

Now that the MDS-lidar project has come to a new stage to go further to start manufacturing the lidar instrument and developing ground data processing system, we need to establish a science team with a more firm basis. In the science team, the members will conduct their own researches and contribute to the project.

In this presentation, I described the circumstances around us in relation to the project organization and a possible way for establishing a science team.

***Scientist Groups for MDS-2/ELISE Project***

**Existing:**

- (1) Mission Demonstration Satellite/Lidar Team**
- (2) Visiting Engineers for Office of Research and Development of NASDA**

**To be established:**

- (3) MDS-Lidar Science Team**

***Relationship with the project and roles of each team***

**(1) Mission Demonstration Satellite/Lidar Team**

- function as an advisory board
- interface to other scientists community in ESTO/Forum  
ESTO: Earth Science and Technology Organization  
Forum: Earth Science and Technology Forum
- individuals with no official responsibility
- under "Committee of Earth Observation system" of ESTO/Forum

**(2) Visiting Engineers for Office of R/D of NASDA**

- advisors regarding engineering issues
- individuals commissioned by NASDA

***Relationship with the project and roles of each team (cont'd)***

**(3) MDS-lidar Science Team**

- **conducting researches specific to MDS-lidar projects**
- **to be newly established**
- **on the basis of NASDA-NIES Research Cooperation Agreement  
(to be negotiated)**
  
- **core members selected and funded by EA Global Environ. Res. Fund  
(under negotiation)**
- **cooperative members selected through RA process**
- **all members to be assigned as Visiting Scientists of NIES (Needs further  
discussion)**
  
- **Science Team secretariat to be located in ESTO**
  
- **overseas member participation to be defined**