

*Hinode-3: 3rd Hinode Science Meeting
Hitotsubashi Memorial Hall, Tokyo
1-4 December, 2009*

The SOLAR-C Plan-A

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Abstract. The JAXA SOLAR-C Working Group is planning the next solar observing satellite SOLAR-C that follows Hinode (SOLAR-B) in orbit. Here we introduce an option called 'Plan-A' in two options that are currently investigated by the Working Group. Plan-A is a plan by a spacecraft that is in an out-of-ecliptic interplanetary orbit to have a new view to the Sun. In this mission, the solar magnetism by magnetic and helioseismic observations of the solar surface and interior, polar-region activity in the solar atmospheres, and their relation to the Earth are the central topics from an unprecedented vantage point. If we can have an opportunity to launch the spacecraft in mid 2017, the spacecraft can reach an orbit of 40 degrees from the solar equatorial plane with distance of 1 AU from the Sun in 5 years. The polar region will start to be observed in a good condition well before the solar maximum of Cycle 25.