

## Conclusion of the H3 Launch Vehicle Test Flight No.1 Failure Investigation

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H3 Launch Vehicle Test Flight No.1 Headquarters  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan

Following the launch result of the H3 Launch Vehicle Test Flight No.1 on March 7, 2023, the Headquarters was established under the directive of Minister, and MEXT and JAXA started the investigation of the cause of the failure and studying necessary countermeasures.

Today, the Safety and Investigation Subcommittee of MEXT's Space Development and Utilization Committee, after conducting independent expert deliberation on JAXA's investigation activities and findings, concluded the report on the cause and the necessary countermeasures. Subsequently, the Space Development and Utilization Committee reviewed and approved the report.

The direct cause was identified as overcurrent occurrence at downstream of the Stage 2 Propulsion System Controllers. Three scenarios were extracted as possible failure scenarios, and decision was made to implement measures to address all potential causes related to these scenarios to prevent a recurrence of the failure. Additionally, actions have been established based on the analyses of root causes to improve reliability of rocket system.

MEXT sincerely accepts the recurrence prevention measures in the report and will follow up JAXA's activities to implement the measures. MEXT will also actively follow up the discussions on how to apply the lessons learned through the activities of the "Management Reform Committee" established by JAXA.

Regarding the explosion that occurred last July during a test firing of the stage 2 motor of the Epsilon S Launch Vehicle, JAXA is actively investigating the cause of the explosion, and MEXT will closely monitor the investigation and ensure that appropriate measures are taken.

H3 Launch Vehicle Test Flight No.2 will now proceed toward the launch with the identified measures implemented. MEXT, together with JAXA, will continue to devote its utmost efforts to advance space development and utilization.

As this investigation concludes, the Headquarters would like to express its gratitude for the extensive efforts and cooperation of the subcommittee members and all the parties involved in the investigation of the H3.