

A Response to the Epsilon Launch Vehicle No.6 Launch Result
October 14, 2022
Epsilon Launch Vehicle No.6 Headquarters
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan

Following the launch result of the Epsilon Launch Vehicle No.6 on October 12, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) have started to investigate the cause and to study necessary countermeasures.

The expected data on the status of the rocket in flight (so-called telemetry data) has been successfully acquired, and various data up to the launch have also been captured. When JAXA proceeds with the technical investigation such as analysis of these data, we believe it is important to reach a certain level of clarity regarding the cause and countermeasures as quickly as possible.

In light of the state of space development around the world, Japan has been actively promoting its rocket development. The liquid-fueled H3 rocket is undergoing ground tests with the aim of launching its first launch vehicle by the end of this fiscal year. Development of the solid-fuel Epsilon S Launch Vehicle, the successor to the Epsilon rocket, has also been underway.

While we need to pay very close attention to the technical scrutiny of the cause of this accident and its reflection in the countermeasures, we believe that it is important to take such scrutiny into account, and at the same time, to continue to work with a sense of speed when developing rockets.

The core launch vehicles that Japan has developed to date, such as the H-IIA, H-IIB, and Epsilon, have achieved more than 50 consecutive successful launches. We believe that it is also important to make maximum use of these solid technological assets to respond to the current situation and engage in rocket development.

MEXT, together with JAXA, will continue to devote its utmost efforts to the promotion of space development and utilization including development of rockets.