

## Conclusion of the Epsilon Launch Vehicle No.6 Failure Investigation

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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, 2022, 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 deliberations on JAXA's investigation activities and findings, concluded the report on the cause and the necessary countermeasures. The direct cause was identified as propellant leak occurring across the seal part of the diaphragm in the second stage RCS (Reaction Control System) tank. It was also noted that the utilization of the tank, which had been adopted as a flight-demonstrated product with limited verification, contributed to the incident. The report outlines the measures to prevent the recurrence of such failure.

MEXT sincerely accepts the recurrence prevention measures in the report and will follow up JAXA's activities to implement the measures.

The Epsilon S Launch Vehicle, successor to the Epsilon, will now go forward to conduct the demonstration flight in FY 2024, incorporating the necessary countermeasures during the development. MEXT, together with JAXA, will continue to devote its utmost efforts to advance space development and utilization.

During the investigation, we experienced the H3 Launch Vehicle Test Flight No.1 failure and take it seriously to set up another Headquarters. H3 Launch Vehicle Test Flight No.1 Headquarters continues the investigation, also considering whether there is a common background factor, or not, between the failures of Japan's two core launch vehicles.

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 Epsilon.