



May 18, 2012 (JST)

**Global Change Observation Mission 1st – Water “SHIZUKU” (GCOM-W1)
Solar Array Paddle Deployment and Sun Tracking Status**

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) confirmed the solar array paddle deployment of the Global Change Observation Mission 1st – Water “SHIZUKU” (GCOM-W1) somewhere over Australia by receiving telemetry at the Perth Tracking Station in Australia. The SHIZUKU was launched by the H-IIA Launch Vehicle No. 21 from the Tanegashima Space Center at 1:39 a.m. on May 18, 2012 (Japan Standard Time.) We have also confirmed that the paddle successfully started tracking the sun through telemetry received at the Svalbard Station (*).

The satellite is currently in good health.

* Svalbard Station (KSAT): a ground station on the Antarctic that belongs to Norway’s Kongsbers Satellite Service (KSAT)

(Next information release schedule)

We plan to provide images of SHIZUKU’s solar array paddle deployment and orbit calculation result at about 11:30 a.m. on May 18 (JST.)