The Tanegashima Space Center, located on the south-eastern tip of Tanegashima Island in the south of Kyushu, is the largest launch complex in Japan (9,700,000 square meters). The center equipped with “large rocket launching pad,” “satellite assembling building,” “satellite launching assembling building,” and related facilities. It conducts a series of operations including the assembling, firing, and inspection of launching vehicles as well as final checking of each satellite, mounting it on the vehicle, and tracking and controlling the launched vehicle. The Tanegashima Space Center plays a central role in conducting satellite launches that are a part of space development in Japan.

JAXA’s mission is to pursue the infinite possibilities for future development in the space.

We feel a longing and awe towards the vast universe that seems to be boundless. Such feelings have been harbored since the start of humankind. The world that our ancestors gazed upon and could only imagine is now an important field actively explored by humankind with the aid of incredible advances in science and technology. Through these advances, a deep link was formed between space and all the people living on our planet. Although the vast universe remains shrouded in mystery, it reveals an infinite number of possibilities. JAXA will continue to carry out great missions in order to pursue these mysteries, to expand our activities even further, and to give firm support to ensuring a secure and prosperous lifestyle.

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency activities

Space Science
Explore the mysteries of space and the solar system, as well as the mystery of the formation of the earth and the beginning of life.

Satellites and Observational Imaging
Observe the earth with our “eyes” in space. Support our lifestyle with use of satellites.

Utilization of Space Environment
Open up the possibilities for transportation systems that link the earth and space, and help development of space activities.

Aviation Research and Development
Aim to contribute to growth of the aviation industry and make new developments for future air transportations.

Fundamental Technology Research
Establish an autonomous technology platform through continuous accumulation of research.
The Tanegashima Space Center is the facility for launching satellites.

Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) for large-scale launch vehicles

VAB is a facility to assemble, outfitting, and inspect a launch vehicle shipped from a factory. The VAB is a large-scale building 81 meters high, 64 meters wide, and 34.5 meters depth. At the VAB, two vehicles can be assembled simultaneously. The launch vehicles are assembled, filled, inspected, and launched from the Yoshinobu Launch Complex on the north side of Tanegashima Space Center.

Large-scale launch vehicle Movable Launcher (ML)

Following the H-I Launch Vehicle, the H-IIA and H-IIB Launch Vehicles are assembled, fitted, inspected, filled fuel, and launched from the Yoshinobu Launch Complex on the north side of Tanegashima Space Center.

Yoshinobu Launch Complex (for large-scale launch vehicles)

Launch Pad 2 (H-IIB) (Left of the photo) / Launch Pad 1 (H-IIA) (Right of the photo)

Takesaki Range (for small-size launch vehicles)

Takesaki Range is located at the south end of the center and has facilities for assembling, inspecting, and controlling launch of mid-size launch vehicles. Smaller launch vehicles such as TSI-A were launched there for conducting fundamental experiments of space development.

Takesaki Range Control Center (RCC)

This Control Center functions as the brain for launching vehicles. At the occasion of a launch, the chief of each operation enters there. All necessary information will be gathered here, and all decisions related to the launch, including launch, tracking, and ground safety, are made here.

Yoshinobu Firing Test Stand (for Liquid-fuel Boosters)

This stand was built as a ground firing test site for testing the first stage engine of the H-IIA Launch Vehicle. After that, it was used for the firing test the first stage engine (LE-7A) of the H-IIB Launch Vehicle.

Yoshinobu Static Firing Test (for Solid Boosters)

This facility is for conducting ground firing tests of Solid Rocket Boosters that generate a strong propulsion force. It was used for conducting ground firing tests on Solid Rocket Boosters (SRB-A) of the H-IIB Launch Vehicles.

80-meter Meteorological Observation Tower

For safer launch operations, accurate weather information is necessary. The 80-meter Meteorological Observation Tower is utilized for our own meteorological observation data acquisition.

Meteorological Observation Tower

For a deeper understanding of space development, the museum exhibits show the relations between space and humankind, and the mechanism of launch vehicles and satellites as well as the unique characteristics of JAXA's rockets in a visually comprehensive manner.

Yoshinobu Launch Complex seen from the Vehicle Assembly Building

Takesaki Observation Stand

At the time of a rocket launch, this building becomes a press center. It is equipped with a rooftop stand for press coverage, a briefing room, and a television room.

Space Museum (Exhibition Hall)

This station is a facility for optical tracking of launched rockets and sending tracking data to the Takesaki Range Control Center. Optical tracking stations are also located in Hirota and Takesaki.

Kadokura Optical Tracking Station

This facility is for conducting ground firing tests of Solid Rocket Boosters that generate a strong propulsion force. It was used for conducting ground firing tests on Solid Rocket Boosters (SRB-A) of the H-IIB Launch Vehicles.

Uchugaoka Radar Center

This center is used to receive telemetry data from the launched vehicles and send the obtained data to the Takesaki Range Control Center.

Masuda Tracking & Communication Station

In addition to tracking launch vehicles via radar and receiving telemetry data from the vehicles, this facility serves as an integral station of satellites tracking network to conduct tracking of satellites and receiving telemetry data from them.