Lesson 1

Current Status and Issues of Electric Power Generation

February 2013

For Elementary School

Introduction of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

JAXA makes research and development in two fields; space and aeronautics. The activities in the field of space are shown in general below;



"Electricity" is very important in our daily life.



Manufacturing plant





Electric car



Railway power source

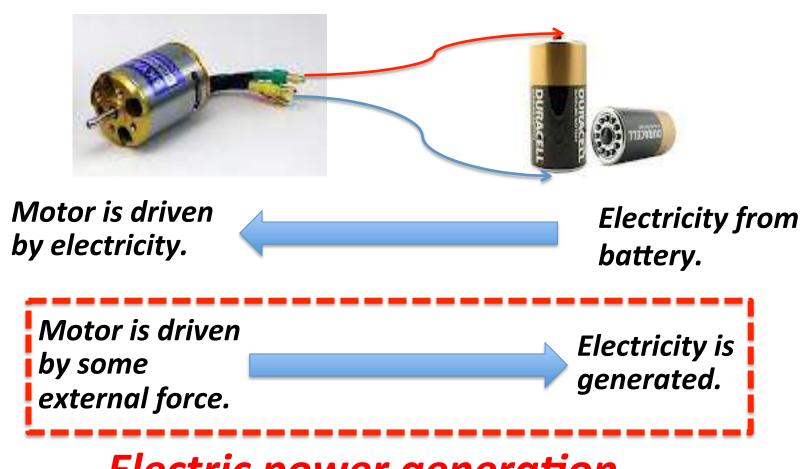


Household electric appliance



City Illumination

How to generate electricity?



Electric power generation

Examples of Electricity Generator





Generator for bicycle light

Hand-working light

Power Generation and Consumption

Power Station





Hydroelectric power plant



Transmission network



Factories

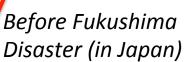
Transportation

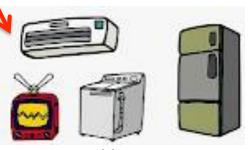


Thermal power plant



Nuclear power plant





Homes

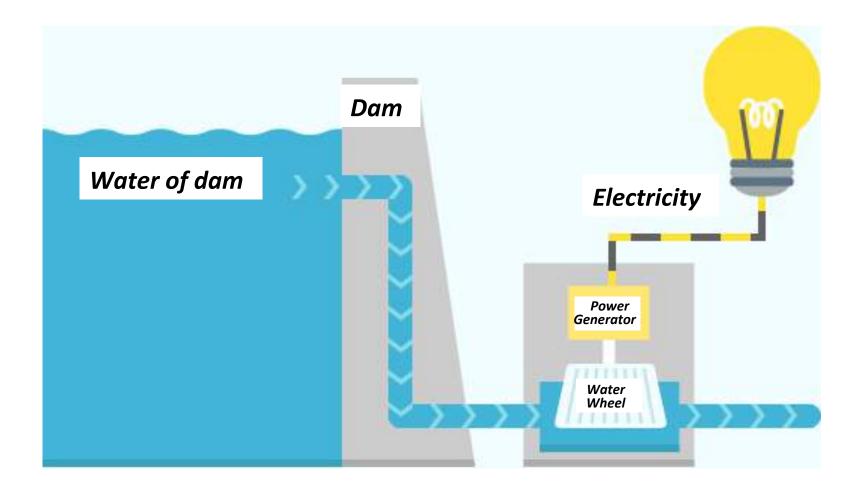
Hydroelectric Power Plant and Dam



http://www.info-toyama.com/spot/31038/

Mechanism of Hydroelectric Power Plant

Energy of falling water is used to rotate the power generator.



http://www.sbenergy.jp/study/illust/water/

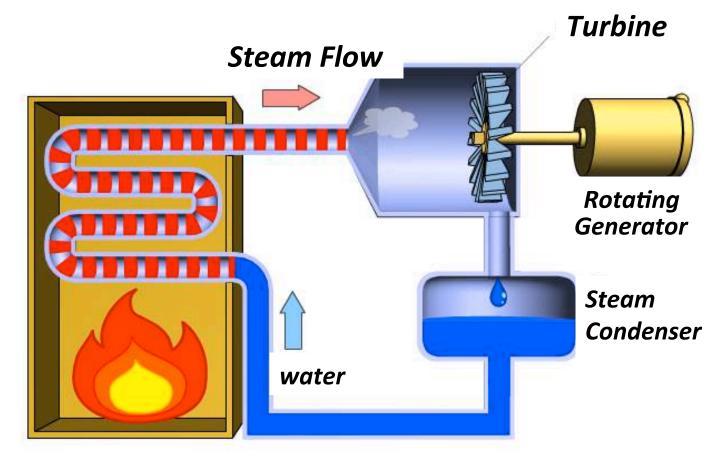
Thermal Power Plant



Mechanism of Thermal Power Plant



Steam is generated when water is boiled.



Combustion of Coal, Petroleum, Natural gas. Fuel is burned with atmospheric oxygen.

http://www.fepc.or.jp/enterprise/hatsuden/fire/

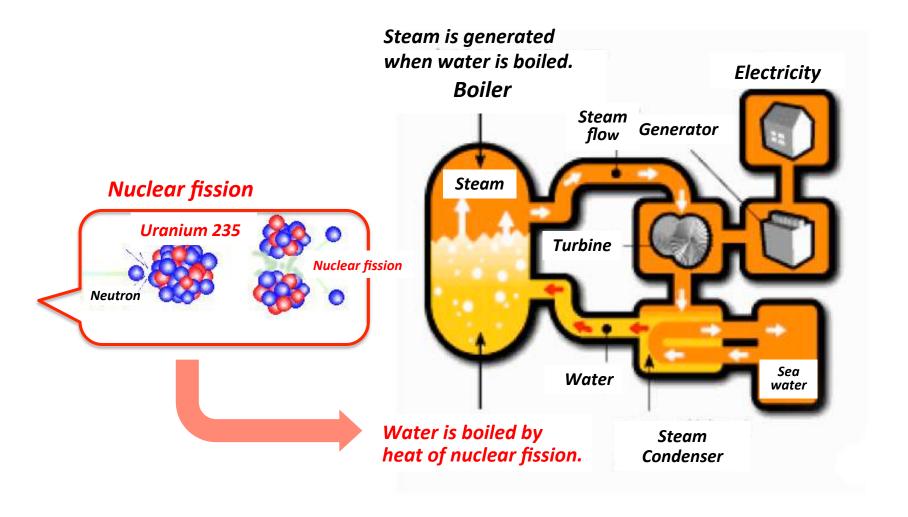
Nuclear Power Plant



http://www.tepco.co.jp/nu/f2-np/index-j.html

Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Station

Mechanism of Nuclear Power Plant



http://www.chuden.co.jp/kids/kids_denki/tsukuru/tsu_nuclear//

Disaster of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station March 2011



http://www.tepco.co.jp/decommision/accident/index-j.html

Nuclear power stations will be re-operated after the saifty is fully confirmed by the new government requirements.

However, since many people are seriously concerned about the safety of nuclear power station, nuclear power station will not be used as many as before.

Current Situation of Power Generation

Power Station



Hydroelectric power plant



Thermal power plant



Transmission network



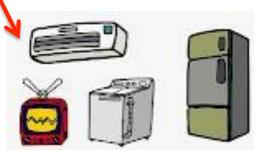




Factories



Transportation



Homes



Power Saving!





Pictures:

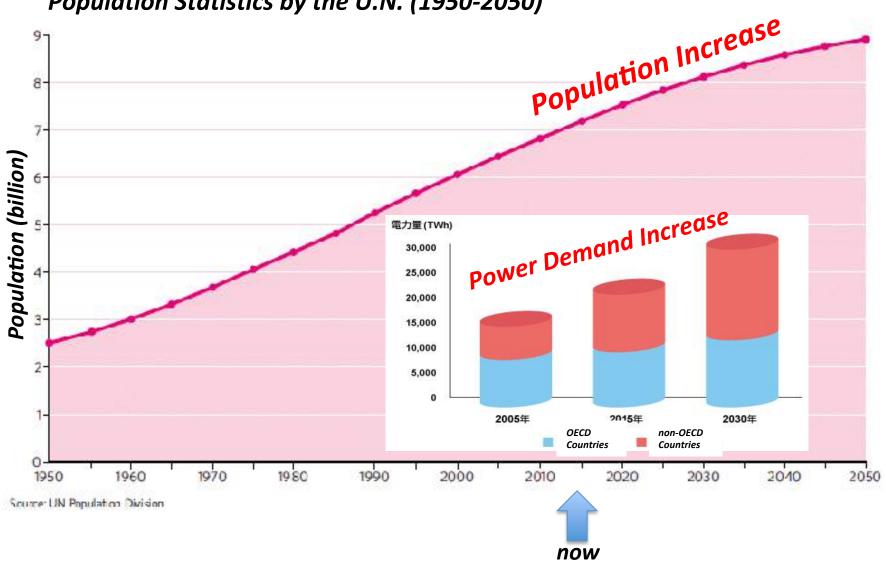
http://environment-illustration.com/economy/economy-dl-02.html http://heisei.cocolog-nifty.com/heisei/2011/07/post-39b4.html http://www.city.iruma.saitama.jp/blog/16kaneko/2011/05/post-76.html In reality, we will face electricity shortage in future even if we had not the Fukushima disaster.



We need new type of power plant, because the power capability of the current plants will not be increased or even reduced in future, while electric power demand will be certainly increased.

Increase of Electric Power Demand

Population Statistics by the U.N. (1950-2050)



Future of Power Plants Currently in Operation



Hydroelectric power plant

Available lands for hydroelectric power plants are limited. It will be difficult to construct them much more. A sustainable solution for future, but we can not depend on them so much.



Thermal power plant



Nuclear power plant

Fossil fuel resources will be depleted.
Burning fossil fuels increases CO₂
emission and causes global
environmental degradation. We will be
unable to maintain the thermal power
plants as many as we have.

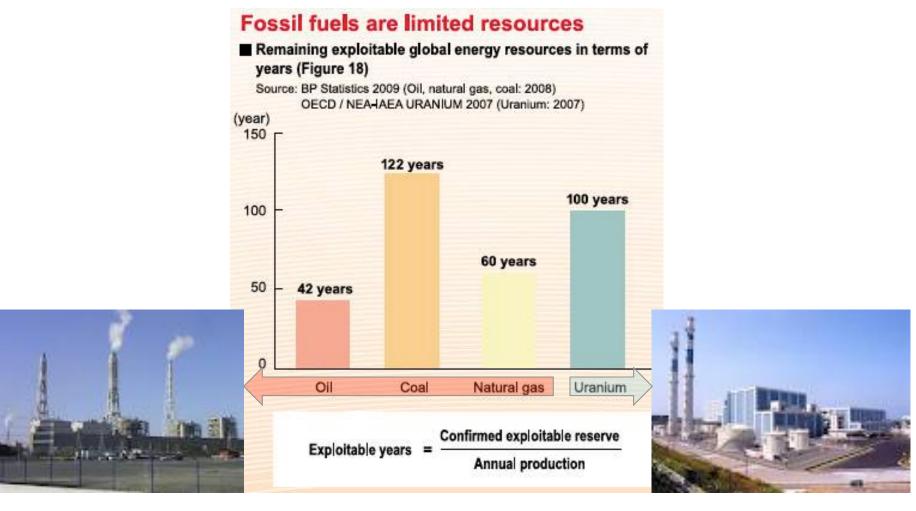
Not a sustainable solution for future.

There is a big concern about the safety of the nuclear plant and nuclear waste. Uranium will be depleted in future.

Not a sustainable solution for future.

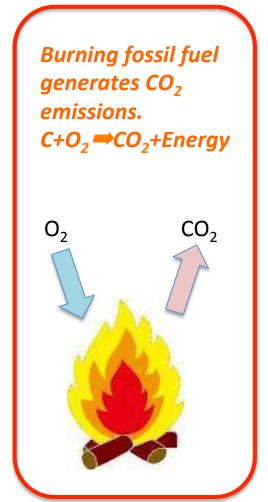
Reserves of Oil, Coal, Natural Gas, and Uranium

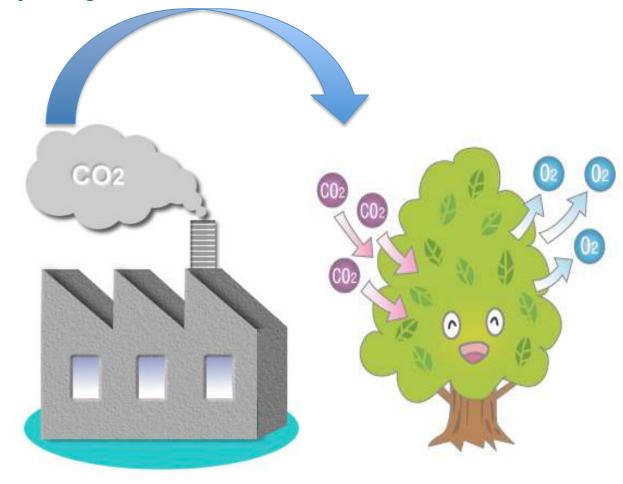
People around the world are heavily dependent on the fossil fuel, more than 80 %, but the fossil resources are limited.



Balance of CO₂ and O₂

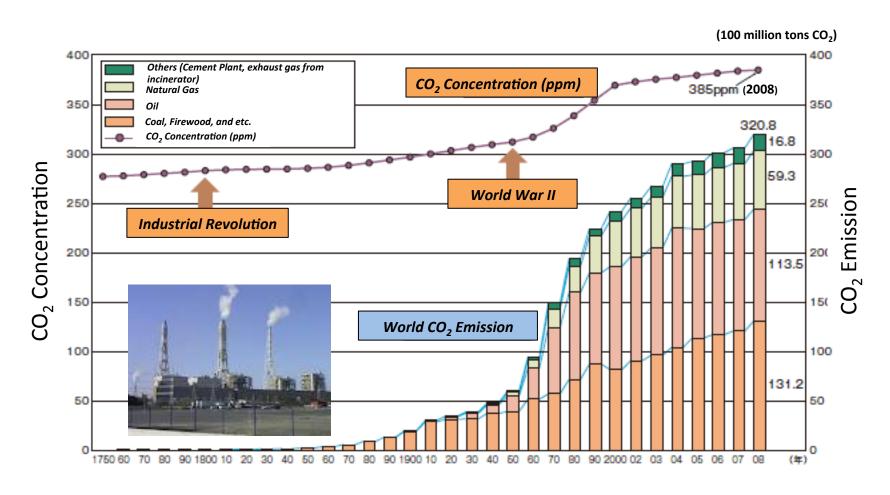
 CO_2 generated at the thermal power plants is converted into O_2 by plants by using the energy of sunlight.





Emitting CO_2 more than absorption by plants and others results in more CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere.

Relation between CO₂ Concentration and CO₂ Emissions



http://www.yonden.co.jp/life/kids/teacher/datashu/tikyu4.html

The Issue of Global Warming

Blanket of CO₂

Sea level rises as the atmospheric temperature rises?







Note: IPCC established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) predicts global warming. However, some climate scientists are insisting that we are headed into a period of global cooling. In any case, the artificial increase of CO_2 concentration will give adverse effects on the global environment.

What should we do?

- 1. Use the power system 2. Generate electricity that can be operated over a long time in future, not requiring limited natural resources.
 - using clean and safe power system.

Energy Type	Power Source	
Renewable Energy	Photovoltaic power generation on ground	
	Wind power generation	
	Wave power generation	
	Geothermal power generation	
	Photovoltaic power generation in space	
New Nuclear Energy	Nuclear fusion	

Lesson 2

Renewable Energy Systems and New Energy Systems in Future

Power Generation by Solar Photovoltaic cell

Photovoltaic Cell

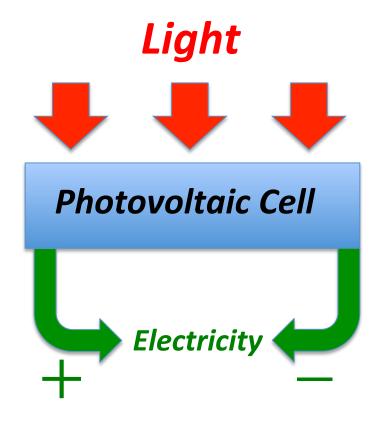






Pocket calculator

Solar watch



This method does not need any fuel, water, or air.

Example of Photovoltaic Power Plant

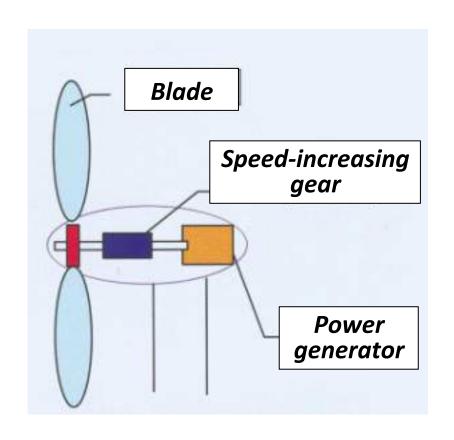


80MW Power Plant in Canada (World largest, 2010, 1km² approx.)

70 MW Power Plant in Kagoshima, Japan

One plant can supply power to approximately 20,000 – 30,000 households

Principle of Wind Power Generation





Miniature model of windpower generator for children

Wind Power Generation



http://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/category/saving_and_new/saiene/renewable/wind/index.html

Wave Power Generation

Geothermal Power Generation



Power generation turbine is rotated by the force of sea surface wave motion, up and down.

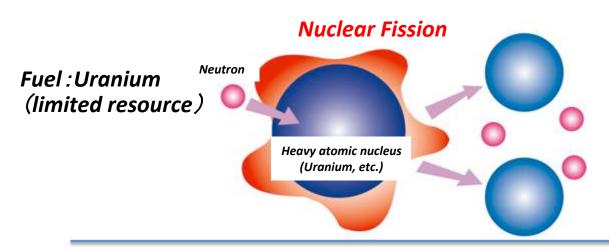
http://www.jamstec.go.jp/j/kids/tazunete/022/



Power generation turbine is rotated by geothermal steam.

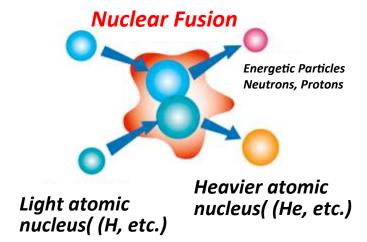
http://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/category/ saving_and_new/saiene/renewable/geothermal/ index.html

Two Types of Reaction for Nuclear Energy Release: Nuclear Fission and Nuclear Fusion

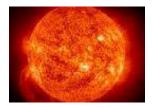


Nuclear Fission Power Plant
There are problems related
to safety and nuclear
waste.

Fuel: deuterium (available in sea water)

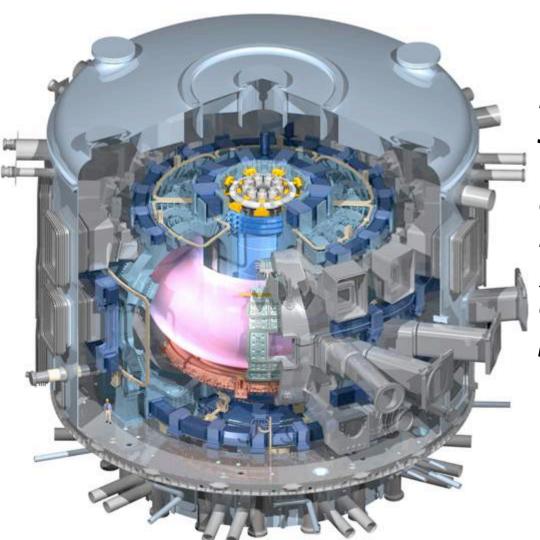


Nuclear Fusion Power Plant High level safety could be realized, not certain yet.



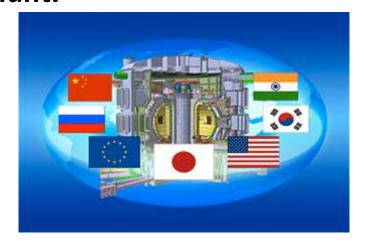
Nuclear fusion is the same process as that at the core of our sun

Research for Nuclear Fusion



International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor(ITER)

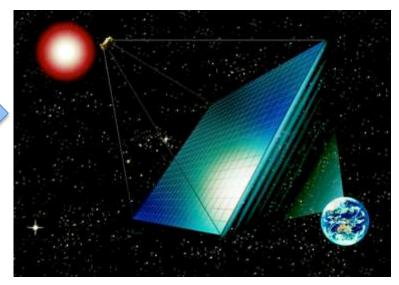
The project is funded and run by seven member entities — Japan, European Union, India, China, Russia, South Korea, and United States. It is believed it takes another 20-30 years to realize the commercial nuclear fusion plant.



Photovoltaic Power Plant in Space - Solar Power Satellite (SPS) -



Transportation of the plant subsystem to space by reusable rockets



Assembly of subsystems into Solar Power Satellite in space



Photovoltaic Power Plant on Ground

Advantages of Solar Power Satellite (SPS)

Contrast

Solar Power Plant on Ground



Rainy and cloudy days



Night

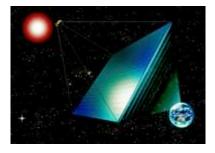


Land problem

Solar Power Plant in Space



No rainy or cloudy day

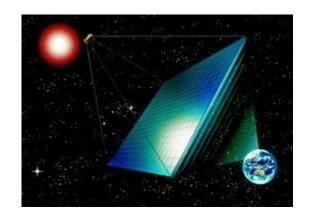


No night (depending on the orbit)



No land problem

Image of Solar Power Satellite



Power is transmitted to the ground using microwave or laser (wireless power transmission).

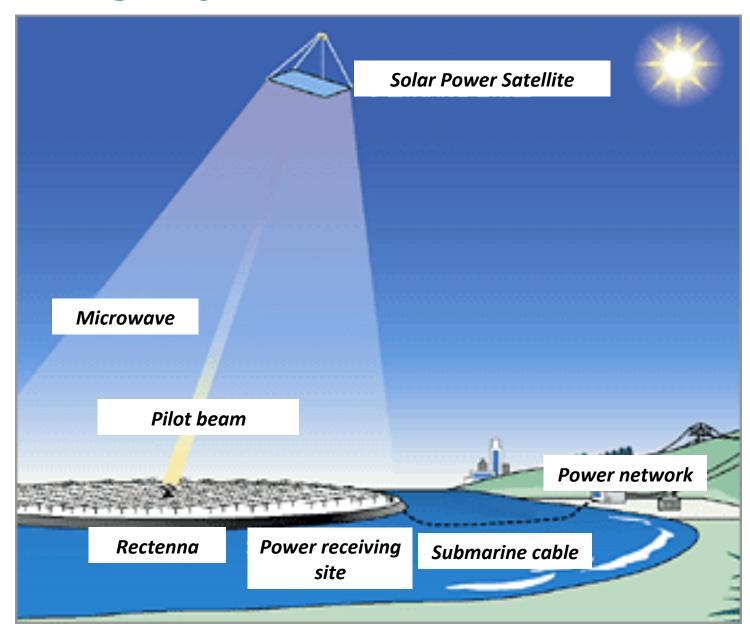
Microwaves in daily life





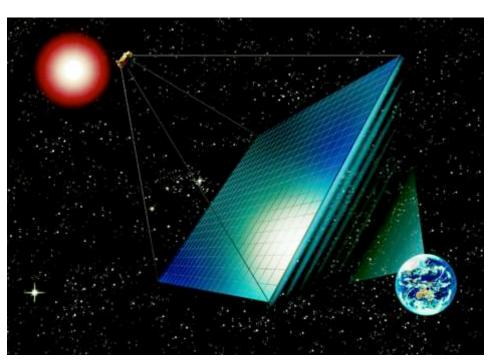
Rectenna site in the sea near the shore (an example)

Image of Solar Power Satellite

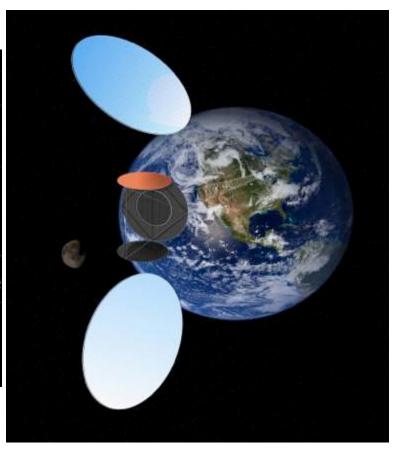


VIDEO

Representative SPS Model Designed in Japan



Basic Mode (USEF Tether-SPS)



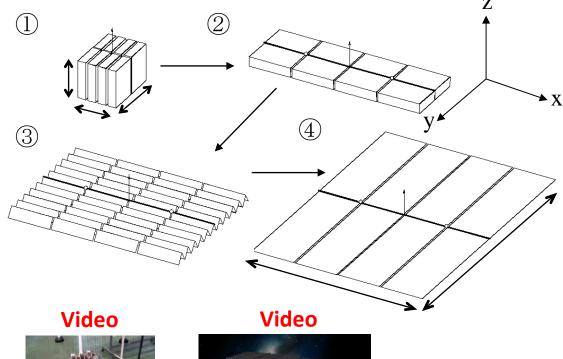
Advanced Model (JAXA M-SPS)

Research Subjects Necessary to Realize SPS

- 1. Large power generation (10⁹ W class) using a large solar panel (km size) in space.
- 2. Long-range wireless power transmission to the ground, typically 36,000 km or more.
- 3. Long life power plant more than 30 years in space environment.

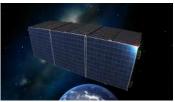
1. Demonstration experiment to extend a large panel in orbit

Two-dimensional deployment of a large panel





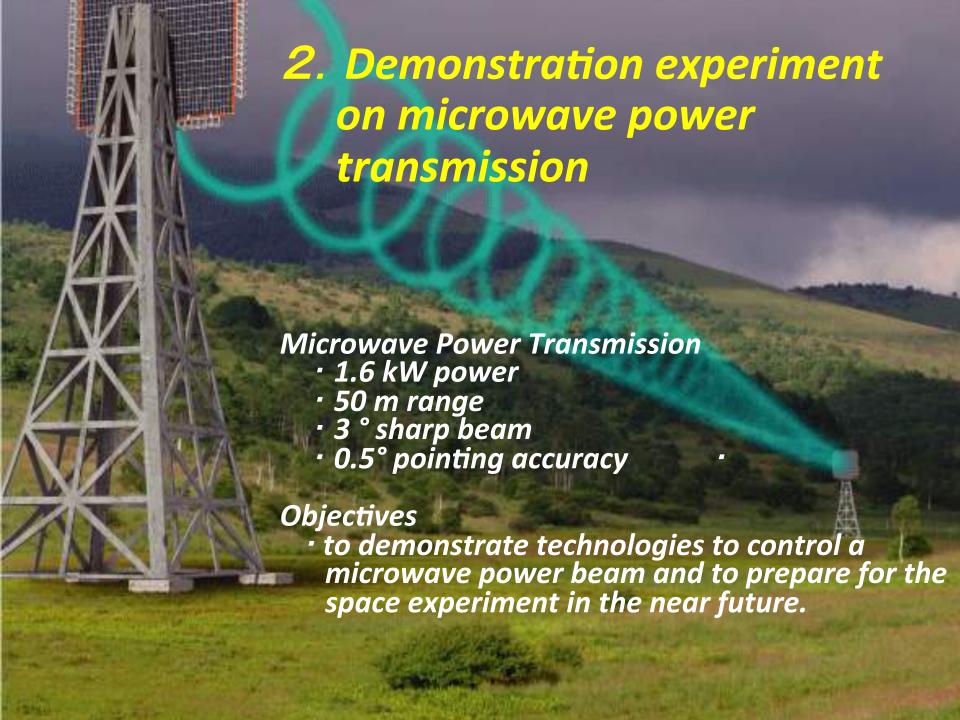
Laboratory deployment test



CG showing a deployment procedure



Laboratory test using shape memory alloy as actuator devices

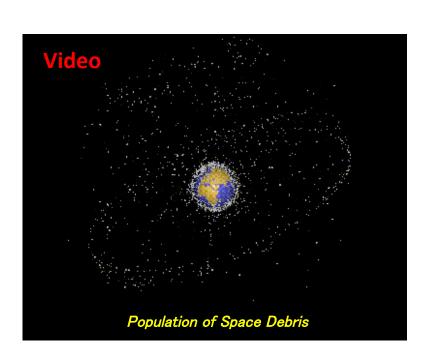


3. Research for Long-life Structure in Space Environment

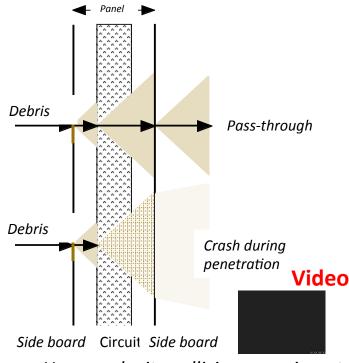
There are a lot of space junks or debris in orbit.

In practice, it is impossible to avoid the collision of the debris to the SPS large structure.

We need to find the structure and component to minimize the collision damage.

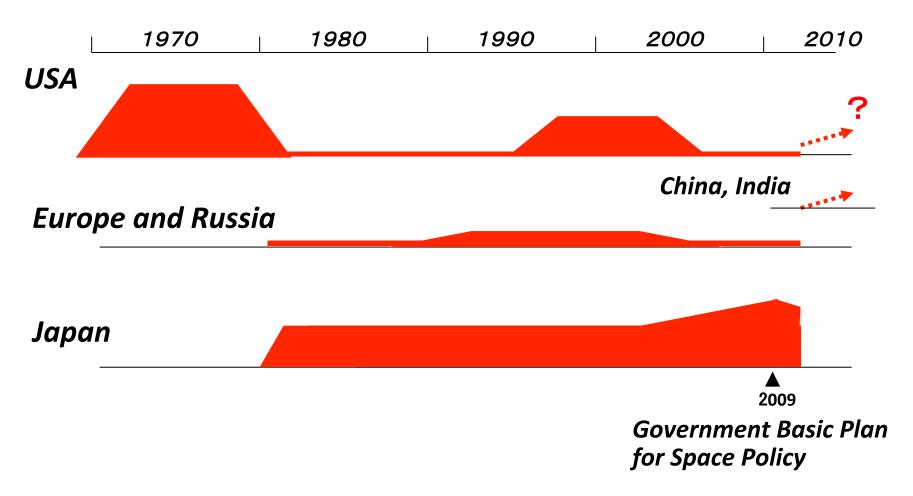






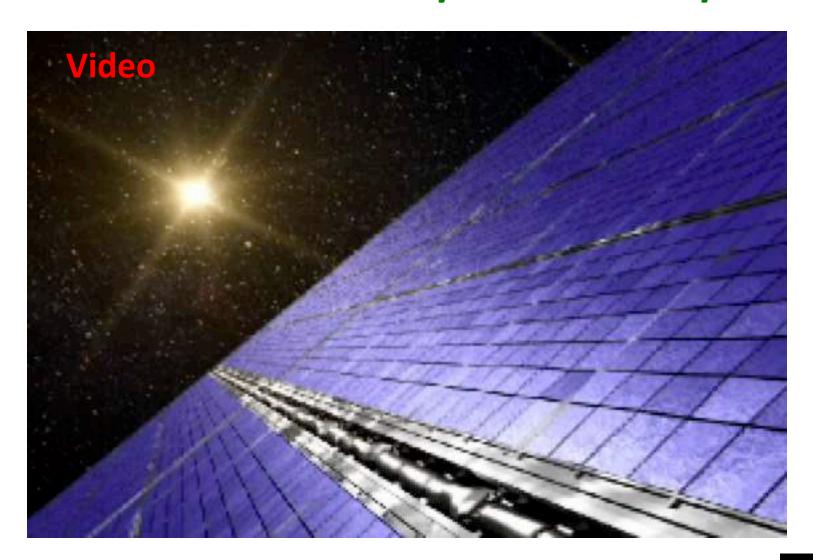
Hyper-velocity collision experiment

History and Global Trend of SPS Research



Japan is currently the leading country in the research of SPS.

SPS Demonstration Experiment in Space



Research Required for New Energy System

Energy type	Power source	Necessary research
Renewable energy	Solar power on ground	Already in practical use, but needs research for low cost implementation.
	Wind power	
	Wave power	
	Geothermal power	
	Solar power in space	Research for practical use
New nuclear energy	Nuclear fusion	Research for feasibility

Summary

Electric Power Demand/Supply

Power saving

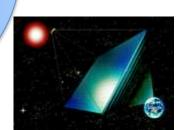
Cost reduction of renewable energy system for currently available system

Development of innovative energy system (SPS, nuclear fusion)

Near future



Solar power plant on ground



Long future

SPS (Solar power plant in space)