Overview of operation of the H3 rocket’s ground systems

Hironori Takeda (1), Yorichika Mihara (2)

(1) Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, LTD
10, OYE-CHO, MINATO-KU, 455-8515, NAGOYA, Japan
EMail: hironori_takeda@mhi.co.jp

(2) Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, LTD
10, OYE-CHO, MINATO-KU, 455-8515, NAGOYA, Japan
EMail: yorichika_mihara@mhi.co.jp

ABSTRACT

The purposes of the H3 launch vehicle are to ensure "international competitiveness" and "autonomy," and to realize the launching of a constant number of vehicles each year by accepting orders for commercial satellites in addition to government demand and attempt to maintain and build-up our industrial foundation.

The conceptual design of the H3 launch vehicle to replace the H-IIA/H-IIB began in FY2014. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) was selected as a prime contractor and is proceeding with the design. In FY2016, the preliminary design review was conducted, and MHI has moved into the critical design phase. The maiden flight of the H3 launch vehicle is scheduled in FY2020.

MHI has been designing H3 launch vehicle and ground systems, such as the umbilical systems and the ground control systems used on launch operation, in consideration of H3’s concept and knowledge learned by H-IIA/H-IIB rockets. This paper provides overview of operation that combines the H3 launch vehicle and ground systems.