

Dust Science Capability of the Next Generation Infrared Astronomy Mission SPICA

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SPICA is the next-generation, space infrared observatory, following in the footsteps of IRAS, ISO, Spitzer, AKARI and Herschel. With its 3.2-meter telescope cryogenically cooled to 6 Kelvin, SPICA provides an extremely low background level environment and unprecedented sensitivity in the mid- and far-infrared. SPICA is a JAXA-led, international mission with participation of Asian and European countries. Due to the budgetary situation in Japan, the international collaboration scheme needs to be revisited; which leads a few years delay of launch from the originally aimed 2022. This poster describe the current project status of SPICA mission, and the unique capabilities for dust sciences namely in the far-infrared with European instrument SAFARI.