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HAYABUSA RETURNED ASTEROID SAMPLE CURATION AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE PLANETARY MATERIAL SAMPLE CURATION FACILITY OF JAXA.

Abstract

An asteroid explorer Hayabusa launched to depart the Earth in 2003, reached to near-Earth asteroid Itokawa and performed sample collections in 2005, and successfully returned its reentry capsule to the Earth in 2010. The reentry capsule was returned to Japan and processed in the Planetary Material Sample Curation Facility of JAXA, and recovered particles shows the characteristic of equilibrated L or LL chondrites, the first direct evidence of asteroid as meteorites origin. Hereafter, we review how a series of curation works goes in the facility and a future plan for sample distribution.