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Author: Ms. Ayako Kurono
Japan, ajisuke@gmail.com

Mr. Haruto Kurono
Japan, aji@24.am

Mr. Taichi Yamazaki
ASTRAX, Inc., Japan, taichi.yamazaki@astrax.space

CAREER DESIGN IN SPACE - FROM CHALLENGED TO CHALLENGING

Abstract

As space development progresses, working in space will become more common in the future. Although employment support for people with various characteristics and disabilities, such as hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorder, physical disabilities, and audiovisual disabilities, has been increasing in Japan, their activities are limited. Therefore, we examined the possibilities of people with various characteristics working in space. When people with physical or audiovisual disabilities go into space, they will need new spacesuits and communication systems. Smells and noises in enclosed spaces can be more stressful for people with sensory sensitivities than for those without, and carelessness in space can be life-threatening. Individuals who have difficulty walking on the ground may be able to move more quickly and efficiently in space than healthy people. Long periods "away from home" can be very stressful for many people, but for those with autistic tendencies, space could be more comfortable. In this paper, I introduce the problems that people with various characteristics may face when working in space, and argue, through actual examples in zero-gravity space, that space can be a refreshingly "challenging" work environment for people who have been said to be "challenged" on Earth.