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技術試験衛星 II 型 (ETS-II)「きく 2 号」

電波伝搬実験用地上施設特集

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RADIO WAVE PROPAGATION EXPERIMENTAL FACILITY WITH ENGINEERING TEST SATELLITE TYPE II (ETS—II) 「KIKU—2」

Edited by

Nobuyoshi FUGONO and Risao HAYASHI

The first Japanese geosynchronous satellite, Engineering Test Satellite Type II (ETS—II) 「KIKU—2」 was successfully launched by N-launch vehicle of National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) from Tanegashima Space Center on February 23, 1977 and was stationed at 130°E of the geostationary orbit on March 5, 1977. ETS—II has been planned by NASDA to acquire the technique to launch a satellite into geostationary orbit by N-launch vehicle.

A beacon transmitter in three coherent frequencies, 1.7, 11.5 and 34.5 GHz, is installed following the request of Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MOPT). Radio Research Laboratories (RRL)/MOPT are conducting propagation experiment with the beacons as a preliminary experiment of Experimental Communication Satellite (ECS) program of Japan which was initiated by RRL/MOPT and is planned to investigate the possibility of satellite communication in millimeter wave. ECS is expected to be launched in February 1979.

The experimental facility for the propagation experiment of ETS—II consists of a main receiving station with a 10 meter diameter antenna and specially designed receivers, a rain radar with mulliple and unique functions, a radiometer in 35 GHz band, meteorological instruments and data processing and control computers.

This special issue will introduce all about the facility in detail as well as the characteristics and may be used as the references for analysing the data obtained by the experiment. Since the facility contains many new trials and special developments, those original researches and results will be reported in other occasions. The results of the propagation experiment with the facility and satellite will be also presented separately in near future.

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