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Status of Himawari-8/9 and their follow-on satellite program

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The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has been operating the Himawari-8 geostationary meteorological satellite since 7 July 2015. The Agency also began the operation of Himawari-9 serving as back-up to Himawari-8 on 10 March 2017. The pair of satellites will support JMA's stable provision of continuous satellite observation data for the Asia-Oceania region until 2029. JMA is now planning the switch over from Himawari-8 to -9 on December 2022.

The Implementation Plan of the Basic Plan on Space Policy states that "By FY2023 Japan will start manufacturing the Geostationary Meteorological Satellite that will be the successor to Himawari-8 and -9, aiming to put it into operation in around FY2029". JMA will pursue a seamless geostationary earth orbit satellite system, keeping in mind the CGMS baseline and the WMO Vision for WIGOS in 2040, including in particular the deployment of hyperspectral infrared sounders across the full Geo-Ring. The infrared sounder is considered as one of potential payloads of Himawari follow-on satellite for its capacity to help improve JMA's services in relation to extreme weather monitoring, nowcasting and numerical weather prediction. In this conference, the status of JMA's consideration of the specification of follow-on satellite and their sensors will be presented.