

JAPAN TACKLES CLEAN ENERGY FROM SPACE

Tokyo commits to space solar power demonstration by 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C., US, January 26, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The National Space Society (NSS) strongly supports Japan's updated plan for space solar power, which calls for a low Earth orbit demonstration of a space solar power system that will use an orbiting satellite to generate power from the sun and send it back to Earth by 2025. This will be the first-ever technical demonstration of space solar power transmitted back to Earth, which can ultimately provide limitless, clean energy, and help to wean society from polluting fossil fuels.

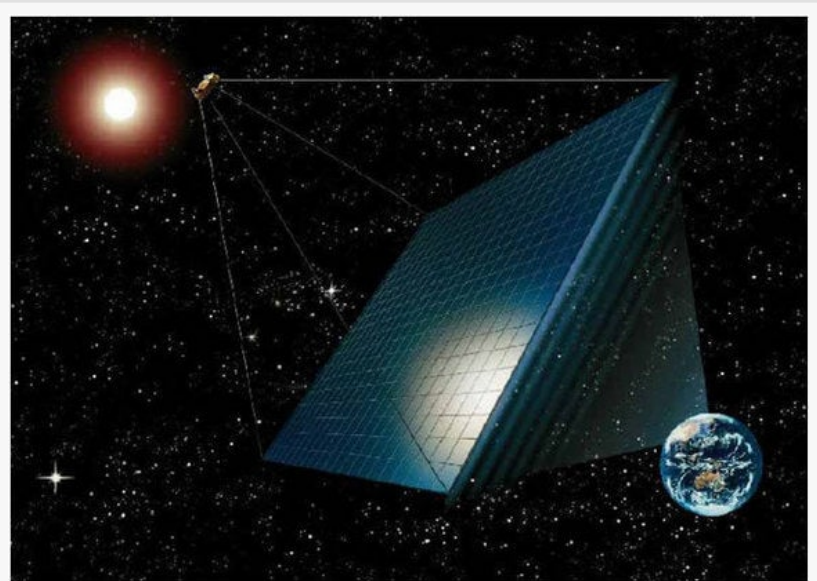


Illustration of Japan's experimental space solar power design. Credit: J Spacesystems

“Space solar power has the potential to deliver enormous quantities of clean, carbon-free energy to the people of Earth every day, 365 days a year,” said Dale Skran, NSS COO. “No new understanding of physics is needed, but we need to be spending money now to bring SSP to reality so that it can live up to its promise.”

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The United Kingdom has developed a proposal to deliver its own operational space solar satellite by 2040. According to [their plan](#), “Space-Based Solar Power is a renewable technology which provides continuous baseload power and could be available at large scale. It warrants further exploration as it could offer new options and contribute to

the Net Zero pathways.” The plan notes that this new clean energy technology is technically feasible, environmentally sound, and will be affordable.

John Mankins, a recognized expert in space solar power, observed, “Traditionally, space solar power has been seen as technically feasible but not economically competitive with other forms

of electricity production. However, advances in robotics are expected to make construction and operation of large space systems much less expensive than using spacewalking astronauts, and a generation of large, low cost, reusable launch vehicles such as SpaceX's Starship are fast approaching orbital flight status. Modular designs consisting of millions of pizza-box-sized, self-assembling 'sandwich panels' with solar cells on one side and transmitters on the other will bring economies of scale, making space solar power much more affordable than ever before."

The new Japanese plan is unique, and mandates—as opposed to proposing—an end-to-end demonstration. Tokyo has studied the problem for decades; this will be a working technological demonstration to validate an entire system architecture in orbit. More information on Japan's Basic Space Law can be [downloaded here](#) (in Japanese and English).

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