

(Press Release)



**World First! A Supersensitive 4K Camera in Space!!  
Launched on August 4th to Shoot Comet ISON –  
Broadcast Scheduled for December**

**TOKYO, August 9th 2013** – NHK and JAXA, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, have cooperated to develop a space-use supersensitive 4K camera system. The camera is now delivered to the International Space Station (ISS).

The camera was launched by the H-IIB Launch Vehicle loaded on board the KOUNOTORI4 (HTV4), from the Tanegashima Space Center at 04:48AM on last Sunday, August 4th.

The goal of this supersensitive 4K camera is to capture the Comet ISON, which will pass close to Earth in December. This comet was newly discovered last September and is expected to be a “comet of the century” that emits great quantities of dust and gas on its first approach to the sun.

JAXA astronaut Koichi Wakata will be in the ISS when the comet comes close to Earth in December and he will use the supersensitive 4K camera to capture its images. Space is a special place for observation because there is no atmospheric distortion. The camera will send back extraordinary images, which cannot be seen from Earth.

This will be the first time for a 4K camera to be brought to the International Space Station and take images. NHK and JAXA have previously cooperated to bring the world’s finest camera devices to the International Space Station for shooting in space. In 2006, they broadcast live in Hi-Vision (HDTV) from the International Space Station. In 2011, they managed to capture images of such phenomena as a meteor shower and the aurora with an ultra-high sensitivity camera system. These images were broadcast in the Cosmic Shore (“Uchu no nagisa”) television series.

The upcoming venture marks another world first in recording amazing images from the distant world of space with unprecedented clarity.

The images of the comet are to be broadcast on NHK Special and other programs in December. The precise schedule will be announced in due course. We anticipate many breathtaking images, including pictures of the comet shining over the dazzling nightscape of the U.S. East Coast.

4K camera means a high definition camera with four times more pixels than the current Hi-Vision (HDTV) camera. IT has been specially redesigned for use in shooting the comet, adding eight times more high sensitivity.

The use of this high sensitivity camera on the International Space Station owes much to JAXA’s manned space technology of safety and adapting devices for space use accumulated through the development and operation of the Japanese Experiment Module “Kibo”. This has made it possible to modify and test devices in a much shorter time than previously.

*<Contacts>*

*Inquiries about Broadcasts or Broadcast Technology: NHK Press Office*

*Tel: +81 (0)3-5455-2444, 2459 E-mail: s02201-nhkpr@nhk.or.jp*

*Inquiries about the Launch: JAXA Public Relations Department Tel: +81 (0)50-3362-4374*