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## Hinode - Space Mission to Investigate the Sun

Since its launch in September 2006, Hinode has continued its observation of the Sun, sending back solar images of unprecedented clarity every day. The Hinode spacecraft is equipped with three advanced telescopes, optical telescope, X-ray telescope, and extreme ultraviolet (EUV) imaging spectrometer. The optical telescope has an aperture of 50 centimeters in diameter, and is the world's largest space telescope for observing the Sun. While the optical telescope observes the Sun's surface, the X-ray telescope captures images of the corona and the high-temperature flares that range from between several million and several tens of millions of degrees. The EUV imaging spectrometer possesses about ten times the sensitivity of a previous instrument, and is optimized to measure flows and thermal properties of coronal plasma. The combination of the three telescopes allows to investigate magnetic activity of the Sun including its generation, energy transfer and release of the magnetic energy. Hinode is a Japan-US-UK joint project with contributions for downlink connections from ESA.

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