ELSI Annual Public Lecture FY2025

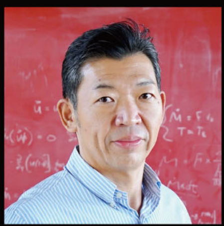
MMX：Unlocking the Martian Moons

2026. 1. 23 (Fri)

19：00-20：50 Doors open at 18:30

Speakers

Lecture 1



Hidenori Genda
Professor, Earth-Life Science Institute (ELSI), Institute of Science Tokyo

Why Explore Martian Moons?

Mars has two small moons, Phobos and Deimos. Their nature and origins are not yet well understood. Under JAXA's leadership, the Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission—much like Hayabusa2—plans to return samples from Phobos to Earth. In this presentation, I will consider why JAXA explores Martian moons, and from samples what kind of big picture about the Solar System we might be able to draw.

Lecture 2

Emma Caminiti
Aerospace Project Research Associate
ISAS, JAXA

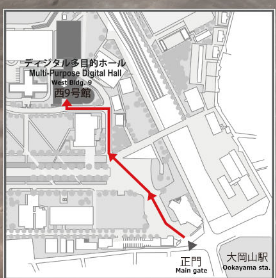
What Can Martian Moons Reveal?

The moons of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, preserve key evidence of the evolution of the Martian system. The JAXA MMX mission will investigate their surface properties and return samples from Phobos. This talk will focus on recent advances in the characterisation of Phobos' surface, spectral properties, and geology, and discuss how these studies, combined with MMX observations and samples, will shed light on the moons' geological history and origin.

Moderator

Kosuke Fujishima
Associate Professor
Earth-Life Science Institute (ELSI),
Institute of Science Tokyo

Venue
Multi-Purpose Digital Hall, Ookayama West Bldg. 9, Institute of Science Tokyo
(Ookayam Station, Tokyu Line, 3 min walk)



Organiser
Earth-Life Science Institute (ELSI), Institute of Science Tokyo

Language
Japanese/English
(Simultaneous Interpretation)

Fee
Free

Registration
Prior registration is required. Use the code or website to register. Capaticy at 300 people.

Registration deadline
22 January 2026 (Thu) noon
(Application will be closed when the number of the applicants reaches the limit.)

MMX Probe image credit: JAXA
Phobos image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/University of Arizona

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