The first space-VLBI mission VSOP

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Abstract

Radio Astronomy satellite HALCA was launched in February 1997 to conduct successful experiments to verify feasibility of space-VLBI and to work further as an open observatory for very high angular resolution observations. Open observations were done at 1.6 and 5 GHz bands for mostly active galactic nuclei. The observing program, VSOP(VLBI Space Observatory Programme), started in late 1997 and ended in November 2005. VSOP experienced global scale collaborations of radio telescope array, tracking network and correlators, and with scientific management and operations. These efforts gave birth to the second generation mission VSOP-2.