財団法人 全国商業高等学校協会主催

第４回パソコン入力スピード認定試験　練習問題　(22.2.13)
【英語部門】

Japan launched its biggest and newly developed H2B rocket early 64
Friday morning. The rocket placed in orbit Japan's first unmanned space 137
transportation vehicle, the H-2 Transfer Vehicle (HTV), for transporting 210
supplies to the International Space Station. Around this weekend, the 281
HTV is scheduled to dock with the ISS. Measuring 10 meters long and 350
4.4 meters in diameter and featuring a wide entrance, the HTV can 416
accommodate larger equipment than space transport vehicles fielded by 486
Russia and Europe. Japan is to launch a total of seven HTV single-use 557
vehicles through 2015, one per year. 595

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Mitsubishi Heavy 655
Industries Ltd jointly developed the 57-meter-long H2B rocket at a cost 727
of ¥27 billion which was far cheaper than the H2A rocket that preceded 798
it. The H2B uses the H2A's engine for its first stage, but has two 866
engines rather than one. The H2B can launch up to 16.5 tons of cargo 936
into a low orbit and up to eight tons of cargo into a high orbit. 1003

Industry experts say that the H2B rocket will increase Japan's 1066
competitiveness in the space industry because it can launch two 1130
medium-size or small satellites at one time. But they may be too 1196
optimistic. Due to its close proximity to fishing grounds, the 1260
Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture can launch rockets 1328
only in summer and winter. 1356

Japan's basic space program announced in June 2008 envisages 1417
launching 34 satellites in the next five years, more than twice the 1485
number of the preceding five years. But a strong possibility exists 1554
that H2B rockets will have to rely on launch orders from the public 1622
sector. The government should conduct a drastic review of the space 1691
program to ensure that funds are used efficiently and that it does not 1762
become a wasteful sanctuary like public works projects. 1817

練習問題

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