

Aug 12, 2010

Kanagawa University Egami Team B wins 2nd Japan Space Elevator Technical and Engineering Competition Grand Prize

To help encourage the development of technologies related to realizing a Space Elevator, JSEA (NGO Japan Space Elevator Association, President Shuichi Ohno) held their second Technical and Engineering competition at Nihon University's research ground in Chiba, Japan from Aug 6 to Aug 9. Teams were judged in 6 categories including Speed, Control, and Safety. Egami Team B took the Grand Prize.

Results

	Tether/Belt Competition		
	Affiliation	Team Name (Climber's Name)	Time to 300m
Grand Prize	Kanagawa University	Egami Team B (KSC-V)	2min 36sec
	Only team to climb the tether to the top and come down safely in spite of the tough conditions caused by the winds effect on the tether.		
Runner-up	Nihon University	SAKURANA (SAKURANA)	6min 26sec
	Reached the top but was unable to come completely down the tether.		
3rd Place	Shizuoka University	SATT (Unaginobori)	—
	Stopped just short of the 300m goal.		
Speed	Kanagawa University	Egami Team B (KSC-V)	2min 36sec
	Speed was important, but more importantly they made it all the way to the top of the tether and came all the way back down. And they were even able to do it at a speed greater than that of last year's winning team.		
Control	Nihon University	SAKURANA (SAKURANA)	—
	Climber's control was completely automated.		
Environmental Control	Nihon University	Aoki Team 1 (CAL)	—
	Designed their climber to be able to adapt to different thickness tethers as well as to be able to deal with the twisting from the wind.		
Maintainability	Earth-Track-Controllers	Team CHAD (Earth Track Climber #2)	—
	Designed Design their climber to be able to attach to the tether faster than any other team		
Safety / Durability	None		
Other functionality	Individual	Team Okuzawa (momonga-2)	—
	This climber had the ability to log a variety of data to be able to analyze any problems that it may encounter. It also included a variety of other features such as real-time data transfer.		

Tether/Rope Competition			
2 teams participated in the 300m climb, 1 completed the climb..			
	University of Saskatchewan, College of Engineering	Space Design Team (-)	00'38"
	During their first attempt, the USST climber did not maintain control of the tension in the tether, lost traction, and subsequently fell and was damaged. The next day, however, it climbed successfully.		
	Nihon University	NU aoki labo II (Panda-1gou)	—
	Stopped just short of the 300m goal.		

○Endurance LASER

Lego Climbers climbed to an altitude of 100m in the first Space Elevator Lego competition to this height. Of the 5 teams participating, 3 made it to the top.

○Reflecting on this years competition :

“last year the competition concentrated on Speed, but this year there were the 6 categories listed above and this made it a much tighter race. With the participation of 2 International teams, teams from Japan also had the opportunity to exchange ideas and see some differences in design and different points of view of their international counterparts”, said Yoshio Aoki, Technical and Engineering judge, and added “Next year, with the plan to hold the competition to a height of 600 meters, we expect Automated Control to be one of the upcoming themes for the climbers. We expect the number of technical members in our organization and participants in next year's competition to only increase”, said Yoshiki Yamagiwa, Technical and Engineering judge.

○Future plans :

We aim to double the tether length for this competition each year and create regulations and evaluate categories which will help progress technologies related to the realization of a Space Elevator. At the end of the year, we expect to share the results of this competition and other insights we have acquired at an international conference. We plan to continue cooperation not just within Japan but with International organizations and researchers as well. We have plans to hold workshops and also idea contests. For more details, please visit our Home Page.

For those interested in receiving Film clips and or Pictures, please contact us.

- General Space Elevator Clips and Explanations
- Bird's eye view covering this year's competition tether, along with pictures from climbers themselves

<For questions regarding this please contact>

Japan Space Elevator Association

Media Relations: Devin Jacobson(devinjacobson@jsea.jp)

Kayoko Oshima (info@jsea.jp)

For general inquiries: 81- 80-7013-2086