GEOTAIL 衛星計画 の国際的評価

2007 年の GEOTAIL 運用延長申請に際して、40 名の国外研究者から support letter が寄せられた。以下はその一部からの抜粋である。

Z. Pu (Peking University, China)　GEOTAIL is one of the most successful scientific spacecraft in the half a century of space exploration.　The success of GEOTAIL mission originated from its remarkable design, which remains an excellent model even for nowadays space mission construction.　The science goals, unique phases of spacecraft orbit, advanced payloads and effective international collaboration all attracted us a lot. -----

V. A. Sergeev (St. Petersburg State University, Russia)　I am writing to express my sincere respect and profound admiration concerning the operation of GEOTAIL spacecraft, which provided for so many years a continuous high-quality scientific data with unprecedented coverage of important parts of space.　Many important results based on GEOTAIL have been obtained by Japanese scientists and international teams. -----

S. Schwarz (Imperial College, London)　GEOTAIL has been an outstanding mission whose unique capabilities have enabled it to make many advances in our understanding of the Earth's magnetic tail.　This has been achieved by a well-planned and executed strategy of instrumentation and orbital operation.　I am sure ISAS is very proud of this high-profile, international success. -----

J-A. Sauvaud (Centre National de la Rescherche Scientifique, Toulouse)　The GEOTAIL mission is a cornerstone for the physics community working in France and Europe on space plasma physics. … This kind of findings was first due to the clever mission design with the initial satellite orbit sweeping the far tail. ------

G. Siscoe (Boston University, Massachusetts)　The GEOTAIL mission has contributed more to the understanding of the Earth's magnetotail than any mission since the geotail's discovery in 1965.　This is owing in no small part to intelligent decisions by mission planers who specified the spacecraft's instrument and who designed a sequence of orbital stages.　It is also owing to the excellence of the principal investigators. ------.

J.A.Slavin (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Maryland)　I wish to share with you my deepest respect and admiration for all of the scientists and engineers who have made the GEOTAIL mission one of the most successful in the history of magnetospheric physics. GEOTAIL has nurtured and matured a new generation of magnetospheric physicists who will be leaders in solar-terrestrial science for many years to come.　GEOTAIL has changed how we view such fundamental aspects of cosmic plasmas as current sheet instability, magnetic reconnection and charged particle acceleration. -----..

C.T. Russell (University of California, Los Angeles)　GEOTAIL has been one of the most productive space missions in history, mapping the distant magnetotail and revealing the interplay between the distant neutral point and the near-Earth neutral line.　It has provided key correlative data in innumerable multispacecraft studies of almost every process taking place in the magnetosphere environment.　GEOTAIL has produced a rich heritage of scientific discovery and in doing so has left a scientific legacy in its comprehensive ad accessible database. -----.