

LAUNCH IN ORBIT OF THE NINA-2 APPARATUS ABOARD THE SATELLITE MITA

M. Casolino for the NINA-2 Collaboration
Dept. of Physics - University of Roma Tor Vergata

The apparatus NINA-2, on board of the Italian satellite MITA, was put on orbit on July the 15th, 2000, from the cosmodrome of Plesetsk (Russia). The detector used in this mission is identical to NINA, which flew on the Russian satellite Resurs-O1-N4 in 1998-1999, but makes use of the extensive computer and telemetry capabilities of MITA to improve the active data acquisition time.

NINA-2 physics goal is to study the low energy component of cosmic ray nuclei during the solar maximum period of the 23th cycle. The 87.3 degrees inclination, 450 km altitude polar orbit allow investigations of cosmic rays of different nature: galactic origin, solar energetic particles and trapped nuclei in the magnetosphere.

NINA-2 is a silicon strip detector with geometry factor of 10 cm²sr at energy of 10 MeV/n, and with mass resolution for He nuclei better than 0.15 amu. Energy resolution is of order of 1 MeV. Here we present the instrument performances in orbit.