

# China prepares for first spacewalk mission

China's third manned mission into space will feature the country's first ever spacewalk. The five-day *Shenzhou 7* mission is a key step towards Chinese plans to construct an orbiting laboratory complex by 2010

**SPACECRAFT:** *Shenzhou* has three main sections

**1** *Re-entry capsule*  
Brings crew back to Earth

**2** *Service module*  
Provides electrical power, life-support and propulsion

**3** *Orbital module*  
Normally crew living space and laboratory. Serves as airlock for spacewalk

*Spacewalk*  
One astronaut will go outside for about 40 minutes

**LAUNCHER**  
*Changzheng-2F* rocket will blast off from *Jiuquan* launch site in *Gansu* province

**Astronauts**  
First mission with three crew (L to R)  
**Zhai Zhigang**  
(will conduct spacewalk),  
**Liu Boming** and  
**Jiang Haipeng**



Source: CNSA

Pictures: Associated Press

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