

# China breaks ground at space launch centre

China has begun building its fourth space centre, as the nation continues its plans to explore space aboard a new generation of carrier rockets



## CHINA'S SPACE PLANS

- ▶ **2009:** Launch of Mars probe *Yinghuo 1* in October
- ▶ **2011:** *Shenzhou 8* to perform first unmanned space docking
- ▶ **2012:** Launch of *Chang'e 3* unmanned lunar lander
- ▶ **2017:** *Chang'e 4* automated mission to return samples from lunar surface
- ▶ **2020:** Construction of orbital space station due to begin
- ▶ **2025-2030:** Possible date of manned lunar landing

**Hainan Space Centre:** Completion due 2013. Will accommodate *Changzheng 5* rocket, which can carry greater payloads and is expected to become key part of China's space programme