

China to launch space station test module

China is preparing to make a big leap into space with the launch of its first orbital laboratory. The unmanned *Tiangong* (meaning “heavenly palace”) will allow China to test and develop technologies required to build a permanent space station by 2022



TIANGONG-1
Will attempt China's first space rendezvous and docking
Weight: 8 tonnes
Length: 9m

Resource module
Contains fuel, air, water and other support equipment

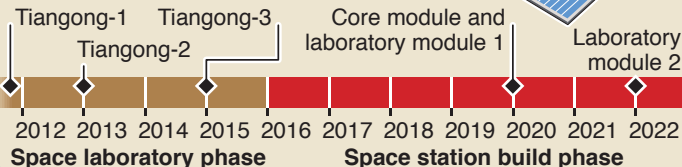
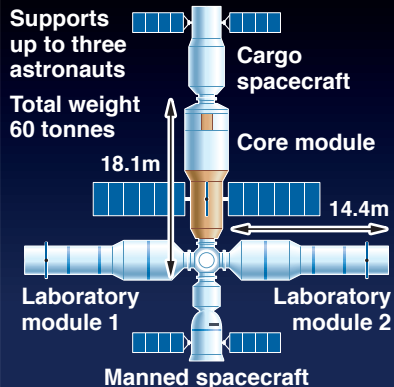
Experiment module: Astronaut living and working area

LAUNCHER
Long March 2F/G
Height: 62m
Payload: 8.5 tonnes

SHENZHOU-8
Unmanned craft will be launched two months after Tiangong-1 to dock with it

Craft will dock automatically using radar and laser ranging system

FUTURE CHINESE SPACE STATION



Source: China National Space Administration

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