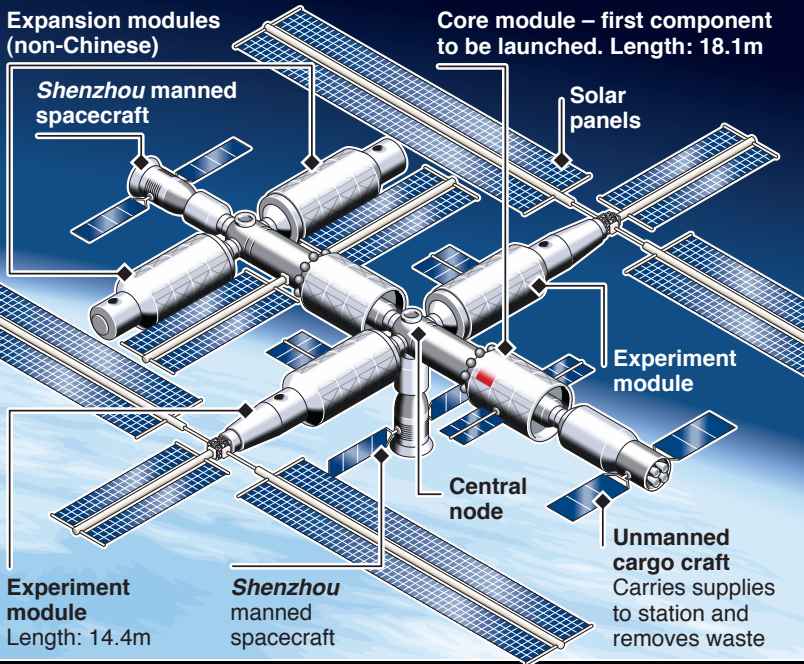


# China planning launch of first space station

China's national space agency is forging ahead with ambitious plans to launch a manned space station by 2023. The orbiting outpost will support up to six crew and provide room for international modules



<p><b>International Space Station (ISS)</b></p> <p>Weight: 420 tonnes</p> <p>Maximum length: 109m</p> <p>Operational lifetime: 1998-2020/2028</p>	<p><b>Chinese space station</b></p> <p>90 tonnes</p> <p>37m</p> <p>2023-</p>	<p><b>Mir space station (Russia)</b></p> <p>130 tonnes</p> <p>31m</p> <p>1986-2001</p>
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