

China's second carrier to hold sea trials

China's first indigenous aircraft carrier could take to the sea for the first time in February. The Type 001A Shandong is an improved variant of China's only operational carrier, the Type 001 Liaoning

■ **Aircraft:** About 24-30 **J-15** fighters

■ **Helicopters:** Up to 16 – for search and rescue, airborne early warning, ASW* and transport missions

J-15 "Flying Shark" – variant of Russian Su-33



Control tower: Modernised structure with S-band AESA† radar



Ski-jump: 12-degree ramp assists take-off, but aircraft cannot launch carrying full fuel and weapon load



Propulsion: Conventional steam turbines with diesel generators. Cruising speed 32 knots (59km/h)

Armament: 3 x 30mm rapid-fire guns, 3 x **HHQ-10** missile defence systems, 2 x ASW rocket launchers†

CARRIER COMPARISON

Displacement (tonnes)



Nimitz-class
U.S. 100,000



Queen Elizabeth
UK 65,000



Shandong
China 63,500

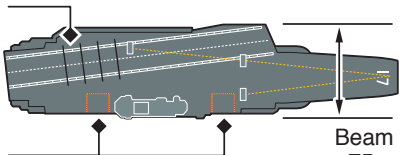


Adm. Kuznetsov
Russia 58,500



Liaoning
China 55,000

Landing: Aircraft use angled flight deck and series of arrestor cables stretched across runway



Elevators (x2): Move aircraft between hangar and flight deck

Length: 315m

*Anti-submarine warfare. †Active electronically scanned array – four-panel antenna covers 360-degree search field to detect and track multiple targets in air and at sea.

‡Armament details are for Liaoning – Type 001A likely to carry similar weapons