

China aircraft carrier prepares to launch

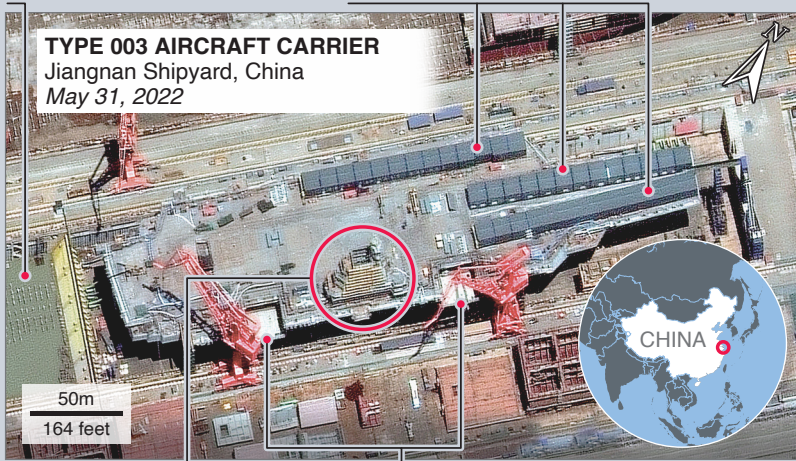
Recent satellite imagery suggests that China's advanced Type 003 aircraft carrier, which uses new electromagnetic catapult technology, is nearing its launch. It is expected to be operational in 2024

Dry dock: Partially flooded – indicates approaching launch

Electromagnet catapults: Used for aircraft launches – construction shielded from view

TYPE 003 AIRCRAFT CARRIER

Jiangnan Shipyard, China
May 31, 2022



Island: Command centre for flight-deck and ship operations
(inset)

AIRCRAFT CARRIER COMPARISON

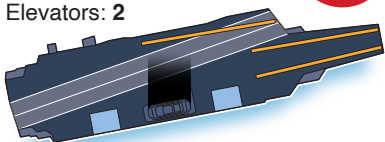
Type 003 (China)

Length: **320m**

Propulsion: **Conventional**

Catapults: **3**

Elevators: **2**



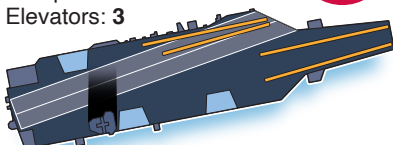
Ford Class (U.S.)

Length: **333m**

Propulsion: **Nuclear**

Catapults: **4**

Elevators: **3**



Elevators: Move aircraft between main hangar deck and flight deck

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



Apr 2020: Empty dry dock ready



Oct 2020: Hull well underway



Sep 2021: Flight deck added

Sources: Wall Street Journal, Defense News, CSIS, Navy Recognition, Naval News

Pictures: CSIS/Maxar Technologies, Google Earth Pro, @Rupprecht_A (Twitter) © GRAPHIC NEWS