

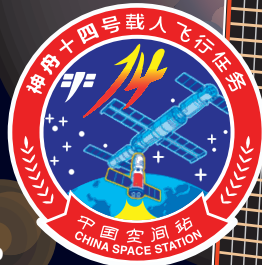
China's Tiangong space station

China has successfully completed construction of its space station. Tiangong (Palace in the Sky) will link up with Beijing's planned Xuntian space telescope and host experiments in orbit, around 400km above the Earth



APR 2021: TIANHE
(Harmony of the Heavens) launched.

Core module consists of 50 cubic metre-living quarters, service section – with communications, avionics, fuel, air and water – and docking hub



JUL 2022: WENTIAN
(Quest for the Heavens) launched. Crew oversees installation

OCT 2022: MENG Tian (Dreaming of Heavens). Third laboratory module completes space station

JUN 2022: Third crew launched to Tiangong aboard Shenzhou 14 spacecraft

Service section

Solar panels

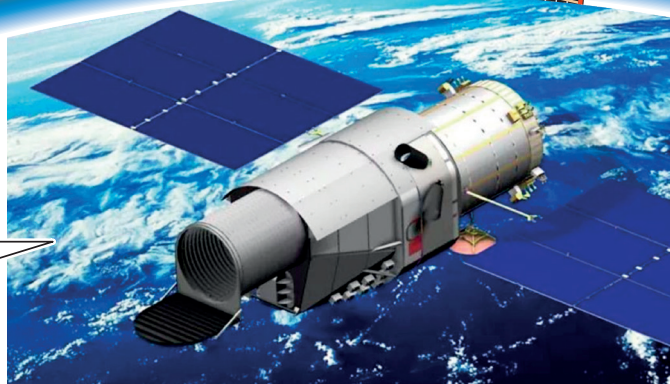
Propulsion module

WENTIAN Laboratory module

SHENZHOU
(Divine Vessel)
Carries three astronauts

LAUNCHER:
Long March 5B
rocket. Height: 56.9m,
payload: 6.0 tonnes

2023: XUNTIAN SPACE TELESCOPE (Space Sentinel) due to launch. Will orbit with Tiangong and dock for refuelling and maintenance. Will conduct research into formation of universe and dark matter



Picture: China National Space Administration

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Sources: AFP, South China Morning Post, NASA, Space.com