

# China and Brazil Plan New Satellites

China and Brazil plan to launch three satellites in the coming few years to gather information on the Earth's environment, agriculture and urban development. These launches include the 02B, 03 and 04 of the Chinese-Brazilian Earth resource satellite series. Satellite 02B will be similar to the 01 and 02 satellites the two countries developed. China launched satellite 01 in 1999, which was in orbit for approximately four years, nearly double its designed life span of two years. It was replaced with satellite 02 in 2003. The space administrations from both countries have agreed to launch satellite 02B in 2006 to replace the 02, which also has a designed life span of two years. Shortly after the two countries produced images via satellites, similar products marketed by overseas companies dropped by half on the Chinese market. Brazil put about 30,000 satellite images on the internet free of charge for their domestic users, capturing almost the whole domestic market that used to be dominated by overseas products.

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