

China's Fourth Navigation Satellite Launched



China successfully launched its fourth navigation satellite, as a part of its satellite navigation and positioning network known as Beidou, or Compass system, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology via a statement posted on its official website.

The satellite was launched from the Long March 3 carrier rocket. It will join another three satellites in orbit to form a network that will eventually consist of 35 satellites, said the statement.

According to the plan, the system will provide navigation, time and short message services in the Asia and Pacific region around 2012. It will be capable of providing global navigation

services by 2020.

China started to build up its own satellite navigation system to break its dependence on the US GPS in 2000, when it sent two orbiters as a double-satellite experimental positioning system, known as the Beidou system.

<https://www.gim-international.com/content/news/china-s-fourth-navigation-satellite-launched>
