

China launches navigation satellite

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China on Sunday launched its eighth satellite orbiter as part of its navigation and positioning network, state media reported.

A Long March-3A carrier rocket carrying the "Beidou," or Compass, [navigation](#) satellite took off before dawn from the Xichang satellite launch centre in southwest Sichuan province, the [China](#) Daily's website reported.

The [satellite](#) launch will establish a basic navigation and positioning network system, a launch centre official said.

China will launch more satellites within two years to complete an Asia-Pacific regional network to provide services for mapping, fishery, transportation, meteorology and telecommunication industries, the official said.

The network is expected to provide global services by 2020, the report said.

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