

China launches 2nd satellite built for Venezuela

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(AP)—China has launched a second satellite built for Venezuela's government.

The remote sensing satellite soared into orbit atop a rocket from the northwestern Chinese province of Gansu.

The [launch](#) was shown live on Venezuelan TV on Friday night. Venezuelan President [Hugo Chavez](#) applauded as he watched alongside aides in Caracas, congratulating those who worked on the project.

Officials have said the satellite cost \$140 million and will provide images for tasks such as mapping croplands, counter-drug efforts and monitoring floods.

The launch came more than a week ahead of Venezuela's Oct. 7 presidential election, in which Chavez is seeking another six-year term.

The satellite is named after Venezuelan independence hero Francisco de Miranda.

Venezuela's first satellite was named after independence leader [Simon Bolivar](#). It was launched from China in 2008.

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