

China's Space Industry: A Strategic Overview

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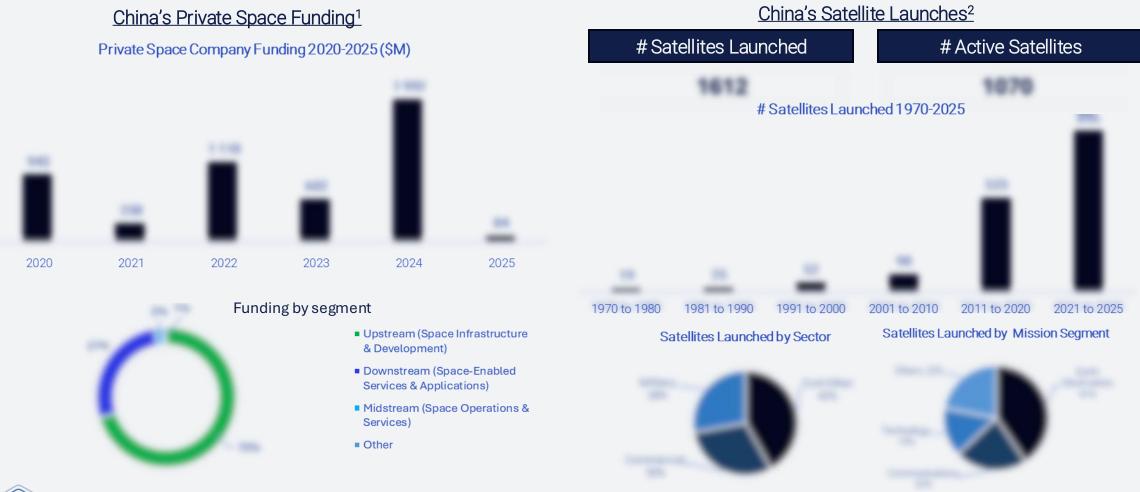
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China's Space Industry: Snapshot

*Access the complete data on this page in the full report. <u>Contact</u> the Space Insider Team to inquire about the full report





Executive Summary

China has developed one of the world's most comprehensive and vertically integrated space ecosystems, driven by state-led industrial policy, rising private sector participation, and strategic geopolitical ambitions.

At the core of this growth are key state-owned entities that have advanced China's launch and satellite capabilities. China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT) and Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology (SAST) are the nation's primary launch providers, jointly responsible for over 1,200 satellite launches since the 1970s. On the manufacturing front, China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) has produced over 300 spacecraft across military, civil, and commercial sectors.

Meanwhile, Chang Guang Satellite Technology (CGSTL) has become a prominent commercial player, developing 193 satellites since 2015 as part of its Jilin-1 Earth observation constellation.

China is also expanding its international space footprint. The Tiangong space station is open to global missions in partnership with the United Nations. China has launched satellites for countries including Brazil, Egypt, and Thailand, and in 2024, CAS Space deployed its first foreign satellite for Oman. Additionally, initiatives like the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), the Belt and Road Space Cooperation Program, and satellite exports are enhancing China's global influence.

From an investment standpoint, Chinese commercial space companies have raised around \$5 billion in funding since 2020. Notable recipients include Spacety, LandSpace, Spacecom, TsingShen, Galactic Energy, and Chang Guang. Key institutional backers include the National Manufacturing Transformation and Upgrading Fund (NMTUF) and China Aerospace Investment Holdings.

Space Insider tracks over 500 entities active in China's space sector, covering private firms, state-owned entities, investors, academic institutions, and government bodies.

This study highlights a curated selection of leading Chinese space companies, with a focus on:

- Launch vehicle developers
- Satellite and component manufacturers
- Key investment and partnership trends

The report provides detailed insights on company highlights, technical product overviews, funding and investment activity, strategic partnerships, and key research papers and patents — all sourced from the Space Insider Platform.



China's Space Companies - Market Map by the Space Insider



China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT)



Website: www.calt.com

Year Founded: 1957

Employees: ~31,000

Location: Beijing, China

Segment: Upstream (Space Infrastructure & Development) - Launch Systems

Funding: >\$20B in assets

Patents¹: 48

Research Papers¹: 1,292

General Description: The China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT), established on November 16, 1957, is China's main state-owned developer and manufacturer of space launch vehicles and provider of launch services. Headquartered in Beijing, CALT operates as a subsidiary of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

Technical Description: CALT is the main state-backed launch vehicle manufacturer and launch service provider in China, among a few others, such as the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology (SAST) and ExPace. CALT's core products and services span advanced launch vehicles, satellite deployment, and emerging spaceplane technologies. CALT are best known for their flagship Long March series of rockets, which encompasses four generations of rockets, including early hypergolic models like the Long March 2C/D and 3B/E, which use $N_2O_4/UDMH$ propellants, and newer cryogenic rockets such as the Long March 5, 6, 7, and 8 families, which employ kerosene/LOX and LH_2/LOX engines. Additionally, CALT offers solid-fueled, sea-based launch solutions like the Smart Dragon series, including the Smart Dragon 3. Long March 5 is currently the active rocket with greatest LEO payload capacity (25-tonnes) – however, Long March 9 will supersede this with its 150-tonne capacity, planned for launch in 2033. CALT are also currently developing two sub-orbital spaceplanes (CSSHQ and Shenlong). Recent launches from CALT covered the following missions: i) Tianlian data relay satellite in March 2025 and ii) ChinaSat-10R communications satellite in February 2025, underscoring their critical role in supporting national space infrastructure.

Space Heritage: With a proven legacy in launch vehicle manufacturing and mission delivery, the company has been a cornerstone of Chinese military, government, and commercial space operations — successfully launching ~ 600 satellites since 1970.



The full report is available on the Space Insider Intelligence platform

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