

China successfully launches X-ray pulsar navigation satellite

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Beijing: China on Thursday launched an X-ray pulsar navigation satellite, which will conduct in-orbit experiments using pulsar detectors to demonstrate new technologies.

The X-ray pulsar navigation satellite, weighing more than 200 kilogrammes, was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the country's northwest.

It was carried by a Long March-11 rocket, the 239th flight mission by a Long March carrier rocket series.

While in orbit, the satellite will undergo tests on its detector functions and space environment adaptability.

Â Â Â *The satellite and the rocket were designed by academies affiliated with the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.*

The X-ray pulsar navigation will help reduce the spacecraft's reliance on ground-based navigation methods and is expected to lead to autonomous spacecraft navigation in the future.

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