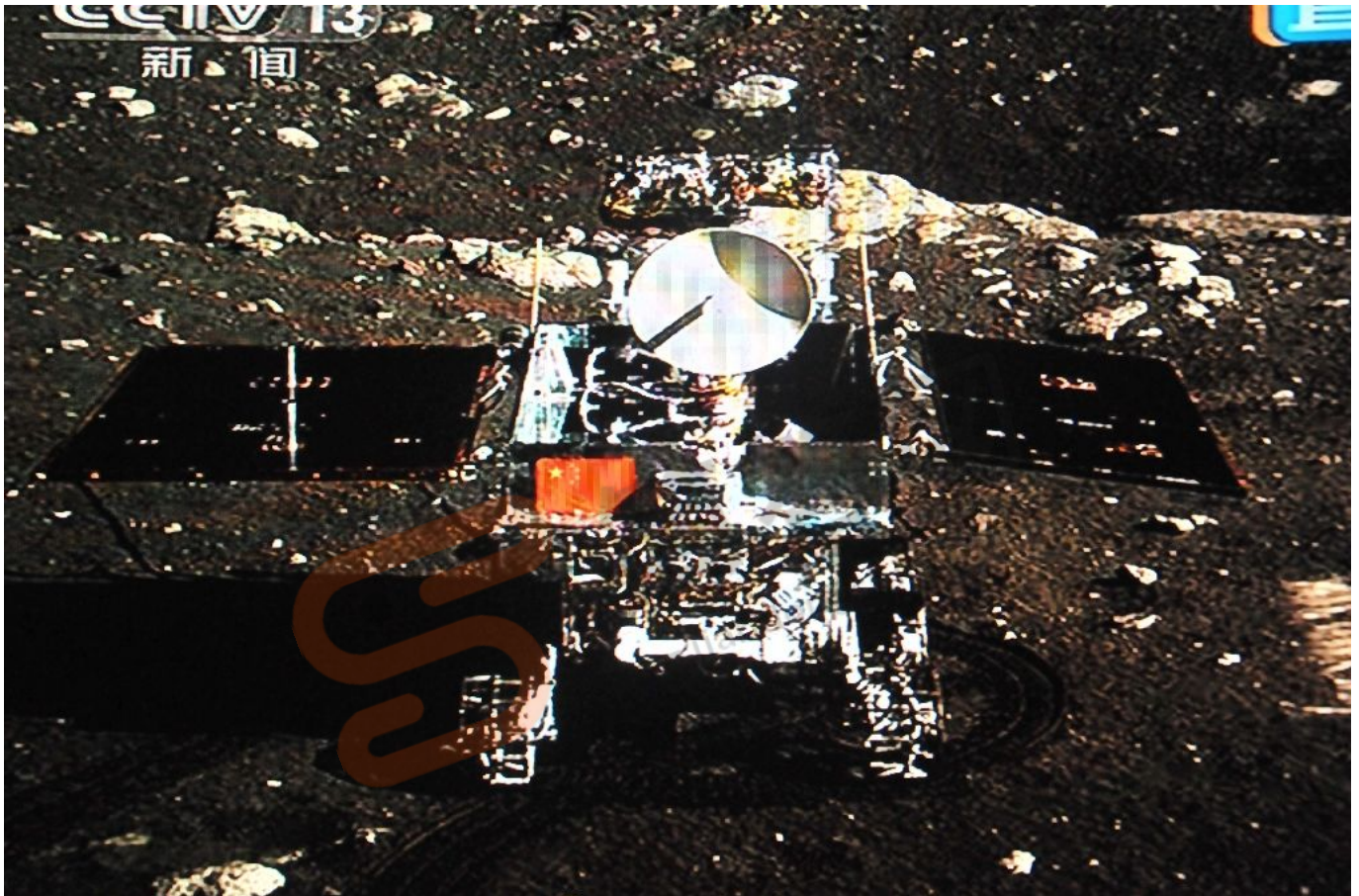


《不说再见！中国月球车“玉兔”停止工作 数万网友催泪留言》

导读:中国月球车“玉兔”在社交媒体上向人类告别，之后官方媒体在周三宣布，该月球车已经停止工作。



China's troubled but beloved Jade Rabbit lunar rover has whirled its last, state media said Wednesday, after it bid humanity farewell on social media.

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The device, designed for a lifespan of a mere three months, surveyed the moon's surface for 31 months, the official Xinhua new service said, overcoming numerous technical problems and design flaws to become a national icon.

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But the machine has stopped operations, Xinhua cited the State Administration for Science, Technology and

Industry for National Defense as saying Wednesday.

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The rover was part of the Chang'e-3 lunar mission. Millions of Internet users took part in an online contest to select its name, which comes from the pet of a moon goddess in Chinese mythology.

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It began its adventure on December 2013, sending back photographs of the lunar surface and gaining huge popularity with Internet users along the way.

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Not long after landing its legend grew after a "mechanical control abnormality" forced it offline, prompting anxiety from its many supporters.

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The rover later turned dormant and stopped sending signals during the lunar night, which lasts for two weeks and sees temperatures plummet.

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But it made a dramatic recovery, to the delight of its admirers.

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It was not clear on which day the device finally "retired".

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An official media account carried a post written as a first-person message from the plucky rover to its fans on Sunday saying: "This time it really is goodnight."

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"There are still many questions I would like answers too, but I'm the rabbit that has seen the most stars!" it added. "The moon says it has prepared a long, long dream for me."

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The post also contained a link to "Universal Traveler", a song by French electronica band Air.

????????Universal Traveler????????????????Air???

It has received nearly 100,000 shares, likes and comments, with one poster promising it "countless carrot pies" according to Xinhua.

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Another said: "I don't know why I am so heartbroken. It's just a machine after all."

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The Chang'e-3 probe's landing was the third such soft-landing in history, and the first of its kind since a Soviet mission nearly four decades ago. It has been a source of national pride.

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China sees the space programme as a symbol of its rising global stature and technological advancement, as well as of the Communist Party's success in reversing the fortunes of the once-impooverished nation.

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By 2018 the country aims to land its Chang'e-4 probe -- named for the moon goddess in Chinese mythology -- on the dark side of the moon.

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