

《北京至新疆公路大通道贯通》

The Beijing-Xinjiang expressway (G7), which links Beijing and Urumqi of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, opens to traffic on Saturday.

It will shorten the existing mileage between Beijing and Urumqi by 1,300 kilometers.



Photo taken on June 18, 2017 shows the Hami section of the Beijing-Xinjiang expressway in Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. /Xinhua Photo

The expressway is the fastest and most convenient way to access the sea for the northwestern inland region, connecting Xinjiang's inland Horgos Port and Tianjin Port in the east.

It is also designed to be an important component of the New Asian-European Land Bridge under the Belt and Road Initiative.



Photo taken on June 18, 2017 shows the Hami section of Beijing-Xinjiang expressway in Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. /Xinhua Photo

The new expressway has a length of 2,582 kilometers, and crosses Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Gansu Province.

It is an expressway with the longest section of road across a desert landscape in the world, as it crosses the Badain Jaran Desert, the third largest desert by size in China, and the Gobi Desert, the world's fifth largest desert.



Workers set up a traffic sign at the Hami section of Beijing-Xinjiang expressway in Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on June 18, 2017. /Xinhua Photo

The Beijing-Xinjiang expressway has been jointly built by three state-owned transportation infrastructure groups, namely China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd., China Railway Group Limited, and China Communications Construction Company Limited.



Workers draw highway markers at the Hami section of Beijing-Xinjiang expressway in Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on June 18, 2017. /Xinhua Photo

As of the end of 2016, the traffic mileage of China's expressways reached 131,000 kilometers, ranking first in the world.

By 2020, China will have 30,000 kilometers of newly renovated expressways, and the national expressway network will be completed.

