

《神十一与天宫二号对接成功 景海鹏、陈冬飘进“天宫”》

导读:昨日神舟十一号飞船和天宫二号实现成功对接，航天员景海鹏、陈冬进入天宫二号，将着手进行一系列科学实验。



The Shenzhou-11 spacecraft blasted off from northern China on Monday, and docked with Tiangong 2 at 03:24 Beijing time (19:24 GMT Tuesday).

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Jing Haipeng and Chen Dong will be spending the next 30 days in space conducting experiments.

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It marks the longest space mission by Chinese astronauts.

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The docking took place 393km (244 miles) above Earth and the remotely controlled procedure lasted about two

hours, according to state media.

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State television on Wednesday morning carried live video of the docking and arrival of the astronauts, or "taikonauts", which saw them floating through a narrow 1m-long, 80cm-wide passageway into the lab.

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The pair "extended greetings to all the people of the nation," while onboard the laboratory, according to the Xinhua news agency.

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While onboard, the astronauts will spend time on experiments, from cultivating plants such as rice and cress, to giving themselves ultrasounds to scan their bodies' performance.

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"Rice is the staple food of Chinese people so we hope to plant it in space in the future," Zheng Huiqiong, an expert from the Institute of Plant Physiology and Ecology under the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences told media outlet the Global Times.

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China is the third country, after the United States and Russia, to carry out its own crewed missions. The Shenzhou-11 is its sixth.

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It plans to create its own permanent space station by 2022 following its exclusion from the International Space Station. It will expand Tiangong 2 over the next few years by sending up additional modules.

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China has poured significant funding and efforts into its space programme, and plans to launch at least 20 space missions this year.

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