



## China's First Commercial Rocket

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Chinese startup **Interstellar Glory Space Technology also known as iSpace** has successfully launched the country's first commercial rocket capable of carrying satellites into orbit.

- The 20-metre (66-foot) rocket designed by iSpace named **Hyperbola-1** reached an altitude of 300 kilometres (186 miles).
- Two other private Chinese rocket builders, LandSpace and OneSpace, have both failed to launch their rockets into orbit in 2018.
- Once dominated by state research agencies and the military, China allowed private companies to enter the space industry to build and launch satellites in 2014.
- Dozens of Chinese companies are competing for a share in the global space industry which according to Morgan Stanley, is estimated to be worth about **\$1 trillion by 2040**.
- The sector is currently dominated by **SpaceX and Blue Origin in the US**.
- Chinese startups are mostly focused on building technology to launch **microsatellites** instead of space tourism like their US counterparts.

### Microsatellites

- Microsatellites are typically no larger than a shoebox and are used to monitor crops, weather patterns or disaster sites or used by universities for research purposes.
- They are cheaper to build and easier to deploy than traditional truck-sized versions and their launch has become a lucrative market, **currently dominated by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**

**Source: HT**